

POSTER INSIDE
Attack on Titan S2 and
Eromanga Sensei

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July-Aug 2017
Php 100

FEATURING THE GUESTS OF
O-KUN FIESTA 3:
LYRON AQUINO
COSPLAYER

ARKADYMAC.COM
LOKAL TAKU

SURFACAGE
ART OF OTAKU

and a feature: COSPLAY MATSURI
CON IN FOCUS

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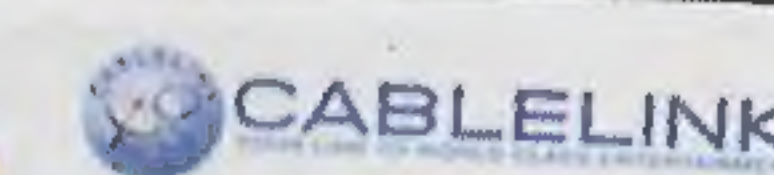
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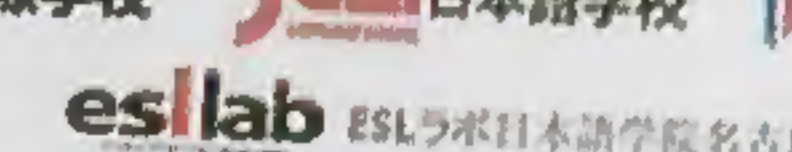
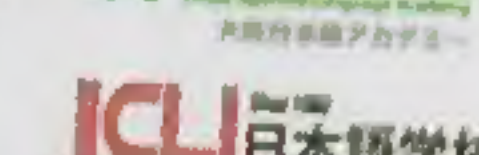
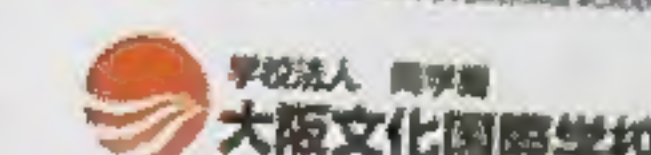
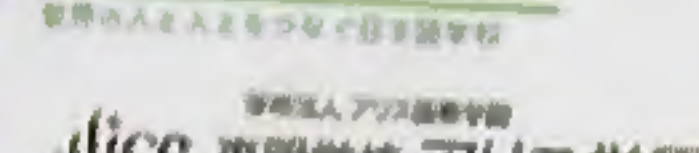
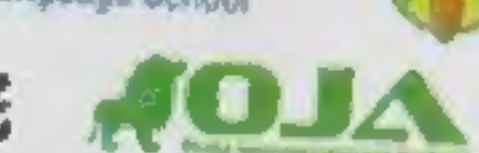
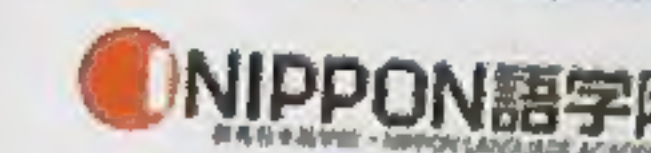
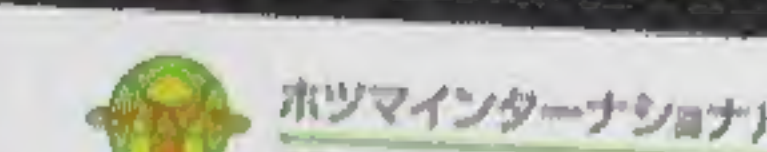
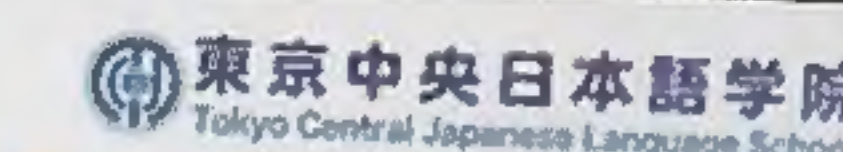
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Well here we are again. O-kun 3 has capped and we are in our culmination issue where our guests have their interviews! We are thankful to our friends at arkadymac.com and their Christian Mack; to celebrated cosplayer Lyron Aquino; to surfacage who graced the event so wonderfully.

We also have some reviews over Chi Shirts and the (official) Anello bags which we are fawing over.

Shingeki no Kyojin is our cover because it is the most awaited second season. We hope you enjoy this issue as you have always loved OA issues!
-lablab, kaddy

otaku

ASIA



< introducing akaashi the owl

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Heloise Blythe R. Diamante **Editor in Chief**
Dianne Michelle E. Gaviño **Editorial Manager**
Alexander P. Ramos **Graphic Artist**
Aaren Arali DG. Santos **Layout Artist**
Jupiter A. Fontanos **Photographer**

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Contributors

Dhanliza A. Cellona, Mikelle Jan Felix C. Abubo,
James Louis C. Bayot, Nathaniel Angelo A. Angeles,
Ann Carmel H. Flores, Elaine Rose V. Palaruan

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

FOR EDITORIAL INQUIRIES

otakuasiaanimemag@gmail.com

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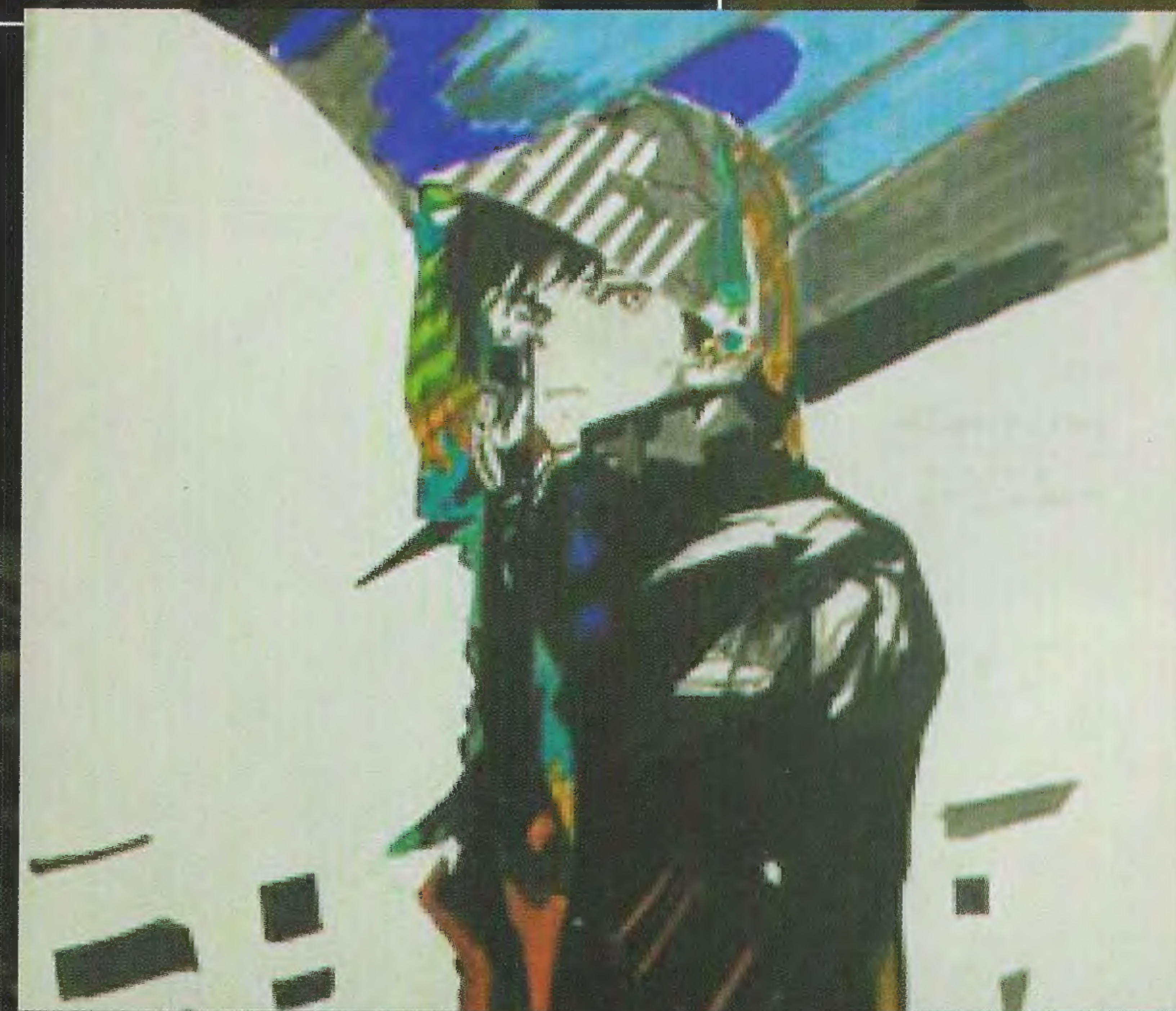
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Backpacks are really popular and widely used in the country. It frees up the hands and levels the weight on both shoulders so you don't get stiff and tired easily. Since Filipinos are into trends it's not uncommon to have more than two brands of backpacks at home. Recently, a contender has gained the people's attention and these are the Anello Bags.

KEEPING UP WITH ANELLO

A product line by Japan's Carrot Co., Anello backpacks are now officially available in the Philippines! The same company that brought us Japanese Teishoku Restaurant, YAYOI Philippines and Japanese optical shop, OWNDAYS Philippines; Lucerne Group has opened up an Anello store at 3/F Fashion Hall SM Megamall. From their soft opening last July 2, we got our own authentic Anello bag to check it out!



We chose the Anello Polyester Large Backpack in Tricolor because we heard that it was one of the most popular designs of Anello other than the Camouflage. The bag has nice solid colors and good, sturdy, clean stitching. It feels light and easy to carry. This design has a front zipper pocket and two side pockets that are both spacious. We fit two folding umbrellas in one side pocket and three umbrellas in the front zipper pocket. Speaking of zipper, their zippers are in cute gold and white colors that are smooth and tough.



The opening uses a metal frame and zipper closure which meant you have to open the zipper all the way before the metal frame opens. Inside is very spacious enough to fit three Gudetama plushies, the bottom has soft padding and waterproof lining. The store person kept telling us that it is perfect for laptops which meant your gadgets are safe from the occasional bumps and rain.



Anello is popular among the community all over the world, especially Singapore and Japan. Their two sizes, large and mini are both available on the Anello store for an affordable price that surprised even us. When asked about imitations in the Philippines, Maxine Marcelino of Lucerne Group said "We don't think we need to compete because we have the authentic." Three more stores will open before the year ends and will offer all the brands current designs, Anello Multi-boarder backpack, mini Boston bags, PU leather designs and limited editions.

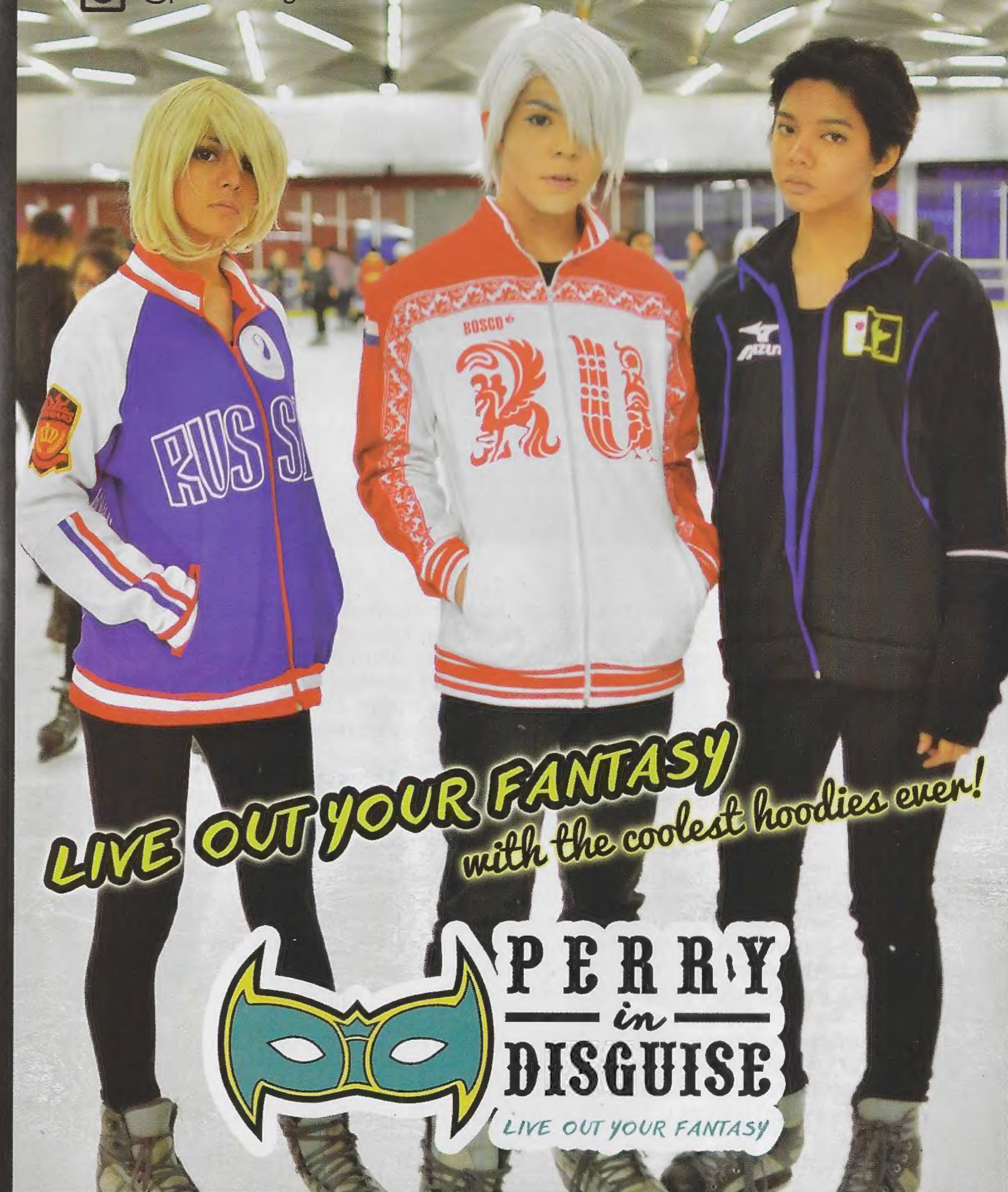
What are you waiting for? Grab your wallets and come over to the first Philippine Anello store! Get the Anello that is created to improve life, good for all seasons.

June 23, Anello launched opened in Estancia at Capitol Commons. With roughly 100 sqm of space, Anello's flagship store in Estancia carries the largest selection of bags in the country.

June 30, they also opened up in UP Town Center here in QC. Be sure to drop by soon as some of their bags are limited edition. See you otafans!



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ANIMÉ MUSIC STREAMING APP

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Music on the go is made more convenient for every Otaku as animé music record companies joined together to form ANIUTA, INC., which produced and released the first animé music streaming service called ANiUTa on March 24.

The service is designed to adapt to the changing demands of the younger generation, especially as many fans may like animé but don't buy hard copies like DVD and Blu-ray. Moreover, existing music streaming companies like iTunes have a limited library for animé music. CEO Shiro Sasaki noted that through ANiUTa, the animé industry will be able to keep up with the times.

With more than 50,000 songs currently in its catalog, ANiUTa features songs from animé, game, special effects, and Vocaloid including Gundam; Wake Up, Girls!; Love Live!; K-ON!; Attack on Titan; Love Live!; The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya; Yuri!!! on Ice; Macross; Iwatobi Swim Club; and Lucky Star. In addition, 20,000 songs are easily available for first-time subscribers. Various companies are involved in providing these songs such as FlyingDog, Inc.; Lantis Co., Ltd.; and Pony Canyon Inc. While listening to songs, members can get to view lyrics. The app also features sale of animé-related goods, pre-sale of live concert tickets, and other exclusive member rewards.

As of this writing, ANiUTa is still limited to Japan, but at the end of 2017, it will be launched for users abroad. In Japan, consumers can subscribe for free with limited access or with paid monthly subscription worth 600 yen. It is available for both iOS and Android platforms.

It recently had a live concert called ANiUTa Live 2017 ANiUPa!! last May 13 to celebrate its launch.

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COSPLAYER

compiled by: lizac 3.0

HE IS YOUR GO-TO GUY

When it comes to all things cosplay, Lyron Aquino has been part of the cosplay community back when it was not as famous as it is now. His field of expertise reaches out widely that aside from costume and props-making, he also does wonderful cosplays.

LYRON AQUINO



▶ **When did you start costume and props-making and what inspired you to do it?**

I STARTED COSPLAYING IN 2005

when I attended the Hero TV grand launch. The event was entitled "Hataw Hanep Hero". It was also the very first convention I attended.

The interest in crafting came from way back, during my childhood, as early as I can remember. I've been making my own toys from scraps, or fixing old toys into something new, just to feed my imagination and tinkering skills. When I attended the convention, I soon learned the ways of crafting from simple props, to full-scale body armors

▶ **What is your favorite thing to do in making costumes and props?**

My favorite part about crafting is

TRIAL FITTING/ TESTING

the props because it is where and when you get to see the results of your hard work, if the result is satisfying or if it needs a bit more improvement. It is at this point in crafting where I get to challenge myself if I can push it further.



▶ **Which one do you enjoy more, cosplaying or costume and props-making?**

For me, it is the balance of the two. I love cosplaying and being in character, just as much as how I love the hard work and all the effort I put on that cosplay. In a way, I get to express what I can do with my own crafts.

► **Any specific problems or difficulties that you encountered while making costumes, props, or in cosplaying itself?**

There are lots of problems every time I work on costumes and props, from making the wrong patterns for an armor part, or technical problems with the effects like LED's. But one of the problems I really hate the most is when the paintjob gets messed up, sometimes due to chemical reaction, overexposure, or half dried paint sticking to the maskings. It is really one of the most frustrating parts of crafting.

► **What are the simple joys of being part of the cosplay community?**



IT IS
MAKING
NEW FRIENDS,
MEETING NEW
PEOPLE WITH
THE SAME
INTERESTS, AND
JUST SHARING
IDEAS ABOUT
CRAFTING AND
THE FANDOMS.



► **What do you consider as your greatest achievement in relation to cosplay?**

That would be in 2014, we (me, bram and riyo) represented the Philippines for Asia Cosplay Meet in Singapore, where our team won as the 2014 champions.

► **Who is Lyron Aquino when he is not making costumes or cosplaying?**

I'm just your average Joe, typical guy. I enjoy music, going places, and I love adventures! I love going up the mountains and just basking in the view of the horizon from the summit. I love the thrill of the rugged terrains and the challenge of holding on to rocks to get to the summit.


This hobby is fun, but it also comes with a price. And just like any hobby, it's the fun memories and experiences that are truly priceless.



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CON IN FOCUS



COSPLAY CARNIVAL 2017

article by Kahlua



In its second year, Cosplay Carnival gives another two days of various lively cosplay experiences for all con-goers, cosplayers and non-cosplayers.

Last March 25-26, 2017, in and out of Function Room 5 SMX Convention were filled with attendees who are either eager to show their new cosplay or excited to see their favorite characters in real life. Cosplay Carnival featured some great off-stage and on-stage activities for everyone to enjoy plus even granting the presence of a special guest cosplayer from China, HaoGe!

HaoGe is best known for his perfect cosplay of Minami Kotori from Love Live!. HaoGe's versatility when it comes to portrayal of characters and his charm won the hearts of several fans all over the world. He has been cosplaying for 7 years, and is also a key member of a cross-dressing group named Alice Weiniang Group who makes appearances on various events in China.



HaoGe's Filipino fans did not miss the chance to attend his Meet and Greet events, interview, and of course the photo op anyone would want. He was also one of the judges in the Cosplay OTP together with Guy Singson and Jewel Wong.

Most importantly, it is worth mentioning his tips to fellow cosplayers which he said during his on-stage interview. 1) Be confident. 2) Resemble and respect the character that you love. It was quite few and short, yet undoubtedly must be reminded to all cosplayers.

Following are the contests and other highlights of the festival.

COSPLAY KARAOKE

This was held for both days: Anime Edition for Day 1 and Mainstream Edition for Day 2. The most fun part about this contest was their unique twist: the songs for each contestant were random! Contestants were given beforehand a list of all the songs included in the draw, then when it's their turn, they picked a number equivalent to a random song among the list which they have to sing.

Surprisingly, all contestants gave the audience a great performance despite not focusing on practicing just one song. Pao Cheung won the Anime Edition after singing Let Me Be With you (Chobits) while Lee Ahoro or also known as Naru won the Mainstream Edition for singing It's My Life by Bon Jovi.



COSPLAY GROUP DANCE BATTLE

Along with Cosplay Karaoke, this contest shows that cosplayers are not only talented when it comes to making costumes and portraying characters but also in singing and dancing. Several groups of cosplayers performed to their chosen music, some doing dance covers of some anime performances like in Love Live! School Idol Project and Love Live! Sunshine!!.



The audience became hyped up in the numbers that it almost felt like a concert happening on stage. Dreamcatchers, who danced No Brand Girls by μ's, won as Runner-up, and Raindrop, a five-member group who did Mystic Messenger cosplay and danced to Seventeen's song, won the Best of Show award.



Meanwhile, Lupo Basilio as Zuko and Nicki Roque as Korra won the Best Tagmanship for being perfectly synchronized in their mini skit, clearly showing their love of the characters from the Nickelodeon series Avatar. Basilio also grabbed the Best Performance award with his great Zuko-like martial arts. Margaret Buena, a little girl who cosplayed Supergirl, charmed all the audience with her cuteness and won the Best Kid award.

Cosplay OTP also served as the elimination round to choose two of the participants of Cosplay Mania Cup. Jin Talavera as Warrior of Light won as Best Male and Best Craftsmanship for his detailed costume, while Tantin Meneses won the Best Female award as Wonder Woman. The two of them will be joining the Cosplay Mania Cup this year.



COSPLAY OTP

Skits are common when it comes to solo cosplay competitions, but Cosplay OTP made it more fun by adding another twist. Aside from their own skit, each contestant also performed a short "TAG IN" performance with the cosplayer before and after them. It was like seeing lots of crossovers of different characters in one program! Most pairs did fight scenes while some had dramatic and comedic acts that everyone was kept entertained.

For the Attack on Titan Cosplay Contest, Charlie Bagotsay as Hange Zoe and Allysa Martinez as Levi won the 2nd and 1st runner-up, respectively. With his remarkable cosplay of Eren Titan, Ace Lance Domingo won the Best Attack on Titan Cosplayer.



COSPLAY MANIA GUESTS

We are all waiting for this every year! They used this chance to also let some important announcements be finally known to the public. For the tenth year anniversary of Cosplay Mania, they will bring us six talented cosplayers from five different countries this October! They are: Kong (South Korea), Eki (South Korea), Angie (Malaysia), Siutao (Hong Kong), Knitemaya (Australia) and Hikarin (Canada). Let's look forward for more surprises in this upcoming Cosplay Mania 2017!

The cosplay community in our country has been growing and will continue to evolve in the next few years. Cosplay Carnival is definitely now one of the annual events that cosplayers and enthusiasts could go look forward to. Let us continue to support both our local and international cosplayers who are brought together by events like this!



JUST JAPAN

STAGE PLAY

by lizac 3.0

What is the evolution of a widely celebrated fictional work in Japan? First, there is the light novel, then the manga, followed by the anime adaptation, sometimes there is even a game version, and a live-action movie afterwards. But if the fans can't get enough of them?

Do not worry as 2.5d stage plays are now a thing in Japan.

2.5d recreates scenes which make use of freeze-frame effects in such a way that the characters are moving like in manga, but not quite its 3-D counterpart, thus the term 2.5d is coined. The rise of 2.5d has been evident since Prince of Tennis musicals back in 2003. However, it was only in 2015 that Japan saw the proliferation of 2.5d with stage play adaptations shown every month in major stage theaters, and it has continued up to now. From Kuroko no Basket, Osomatsu-san, and even Shingeki no Kyojin, it seemed that most of the beloved manga/anime all over the world are being adapted into stage plays.

MOST TALKED ABOUT 2.5D PLAYS



TOKYO GHOUL STAGE PLAY 2015

The first promotional poster for Tokyo Ghouls Stage Play 2015 caused quite a buzz. Everyone thought it was going to be a live action movie adaptation because of the perfect portrayal of the characters. To people's dismay, it is only a stage play that only those in Japan could enjoy. Yuki Ogoe who played Kaneki Ken is famous for playing Ryoma Echizen in the Prince of Tennis Musical, but it was when he played as the one-eyed ghoul that he caught more of the fans' attention. He has been in other stage play adaptations such as Doraemon: Nobita and the Animal Planet (playing Nobita) and Musical Touken Rakenbu Bakumatsu Rouden (playing Kunihiro Horikawa) since then.



HAIKYUU!!

HYPER PROJECTION ENGEKI

When Haikyuu!!'s very own 2.5D production entitled Hyper Projection Engeki was first announced, the general reaction it garnered was "how do they play volleyball onstage?" and "wouldn't it be dangerous?" Two years later, the production team is on its 5th stage production already following the sequence of events in the anime, which only meant that it was successful. The freak duo of Kenta Suga (Hinata Shouyou) and Tatsunari Kimura (Kageyama Tobio), together with other cast members, has been proven effective in wooing the hearts of Haikyuu!! fans.

LIVE SPECTACLE NARUTO

The Naruto anime might be over but this 2017, the third installment of the Live Spectacle Naruto series is coming back onstage. Live Spectacle Naruto started in 2015 with Koudai Matsuoka portraying the role of Naruto. He will be reprising his role in the upcoming installment. As we are all aware, Naruto is full of stunts and fight scenes. The staff and crew have been careful not to be gravely injured, although they always put their lives at risk for every run. As for the visuals that have been released from then up to now, they created a buzz in social media because of the creativity and accuracy.



HOW TO GET TICKETS TO 2.5D STAGE PLAYS

Unlike theatrical plays here in the Philippines wherein we can buy from ticket outlets in malls or online, and seats are on a first-come first-served basis, Japan generally has its own process to follow. Once tickets are on-sale, a link will be posted on the official website which the registrants have to follow. There will be a lottery of registered tickets and if your digital number is luckily picked, then that is the time you pay for your ticket online. In other words, there is no other way to get a ticket but to pray, get lucky, and get picked. Lately however, due to the onset of audience based overseas, some 2.5d stage play associations have made it easier for fans who are not in Japan to buy tickets from them directly. They have set up English websites as well for those who do not understand Japanese. There are also groups that offer ticket-buying services for a much higher fee, but beware of scam groups especially now that the industry is booming.

It is every fan's dream to see their favorite anime/manga coming to life in front of them, and 2.5d just paved the way for this to happen for real. Save up as early as now for stage play tickets (and flight tickets!) if you want to see them live. Prepare for 2.5d's display of cultural prowess, one of the products of this modern generation's creativity.



TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND A STEP FORWARD

When you set foot on a journey, you never really know where it will lead you. All that matters is the first step outside, to the world beyond four walls. arkadymac.com has gone through its own extensive journey since it started in September 2012, so we asked its creator, Sir Brian Mack, a few questions to get an insight on its past, present, and future.



DID THE SITE START OUT? WHAT PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE/S MOTIVATED YOU TO START IT?

While working part time as an editor for a tourism website, I realized that making my own website wasn't as difficult as I first thought. With the help of my brother Bryan I got our domain name and gave it an obscure, hard-to-remember name, arkadymac.com, as I never imagined the site amounting to much. With my brother as the technical side and with me coming up with content, arkadymac.com started in earnest almost five years ago as an anime review website, as I enjoyed watching anime and other Japanese shows as long as I can remember. We never did get much readers, usually just 4 views a day, one of them being me, but I loved what I was doing that we didn't really care.

One day, a co-worker casually invited me to a small cosplay event at SM EDSA North. It was a leg of TORCH: Tournament of Champions by Cosplay.ph. Then and there I was immediately fascinated with cosplay, so much so that I cosplayed as an ANBU from Naruto on the next event I went to, Cosplay Manila 12. With that I started covering events with my brother, supplementing the content we had on the site. But eventually, I got to enjoy covering cosplay events so much that I didn't have time to write anime reviews anymore. While covering, I struggled to learn photography so that I could cover events on my own if need be. Eventually, we had more readers and we were recognized by all the organizers, and now we have been media partners for all anime, otaku, and cosplay events in Manila. Our goal has become to spread the love of cosplay with everyone. Almost five years after we started, arkadymac.com is still a work in progress as we always look forward to providing the best coverage for all events in the country.

WHY IS IT NAMED ARKADYMAC?

Arkadymac is a combination of "Arkady," the real name of my favorite Marvel Comics character Omega Red, and "Mac," my nickname. Arkadymac has been my pen name from my days as a novice writer, and thought of using it as the name of the site, as it gave an air of mystery and obscureness, despite my brother's kind advice of having a name that's easier to recall. Five years after we started, the name is still obscure and not easily remembered or pronounced, but we decided to stick with it out of stubbornness, so here we are.

NOW THAT THE SITE HAS GROWN FROM ONE MAN'S VISION TO THE PRODUCT OF A GROUP, WHAT DO YOU THINK WERE THE MAJOR CHANGES MADE FROM WHEN IT FIRST STARTED?

arkadymac.com started out as a project between my brother and I where we could just have fun and share the limited talents we have. Eventually we decided to recruit talented cosplay models, writers, correspondents and photographers who shared the same views we did to help us out with covering. We made sure to provide the best coverage while having fun ourselves. With our team, we have covered all the major events in Manila for the past four years, with everyone contributing to our articles, features and coverage.

WITH THE NEW TEAM AT HAND, WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR THEM?

I have been planning on retiring from active coverage for quite some time now and to leave the website to our members. I then realized that it would still take some time, so as much as I can, I have them accompany me on our coverage and teach them as much as I can. I have already appointed Rin Lim as Creative Director and Jillian Rose as Editor-in-Chief to take over operations, I just tell them and the team that this is our passion and our hobby, so I ask them to just do their best, be creative, and most importantly, have fun doing their jobs at the site.

ANY PLANS TO EXPAND TO COVER OTHER ASIAN OR WORLD COMMUNITIES?

The local cosplay community is vibrant and energetic and still growing at a very fast pace, and we wish to focus on that. With the literal explosion in the number of anime, cosplay, gaming and Japanese pop culture events in the country, the demand for our services has already surpassed our ability to provide coverage for all of them. We have been invited by foreign events to cover them, and we probably would give it a chance, but as it is right now, we at the site would want to provide the best coverage for all the events in the country who want us to cover and promote them.



WE MADE SURE TO
PROVIDE THE BEST
COVERAGE WHILE
HAVING FUN OURSELVES

© arkadymac.com

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO COSPLAYERS? TO OTAKU FANS?

In my stint as Creative Director of arkadymac.com, having covered more than 300 events in almost five years, I literally have met thousands of cosplayers from all over the world, and I hope that they continue doing what they love and to share with others their love for cosplay. To our readers and fans, thank you for supporting us all these years, and we hope that you will always lend us your support as we continue bringing the joy of animé, cosplay, gaming and Japanese pop culture events to everyone, and we promise to bring you even more enjoyable and fascinating features in more years to come.



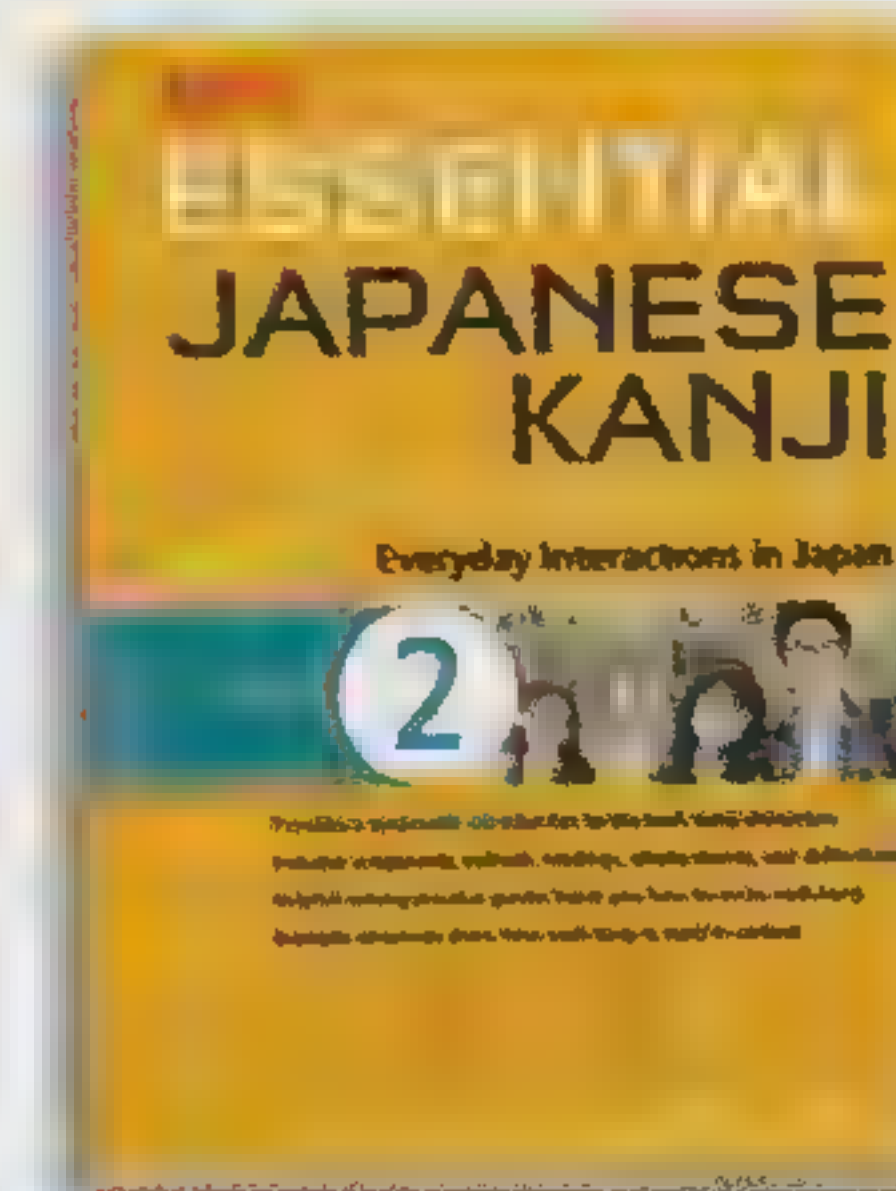
As mentioned, arkadymac.com has become the hub for all things otaku, but more than that, it gathers talents and minds to enable everyone to share what they have, what they enjoy, and what they can gain through discussion and events. Apart from the write-ups and pictures available on the site, the group has also actively joined in on cosplay events, conventions, and even outreach and charities. At the core of it will always be cosplay, hence its tagline: "Because cosplay is fun!" Indeed, the journey for arkadymac.com has been an amusing one with the greater reach they have explored, but it'll continue because our community just keeps getting bigger and bigger! After all, sometimes when the path is unclear, we need to take a leap of faith and just take a step forward, hoping for the best.

TUTTLE

SEPTEMBER NEW RELEASES



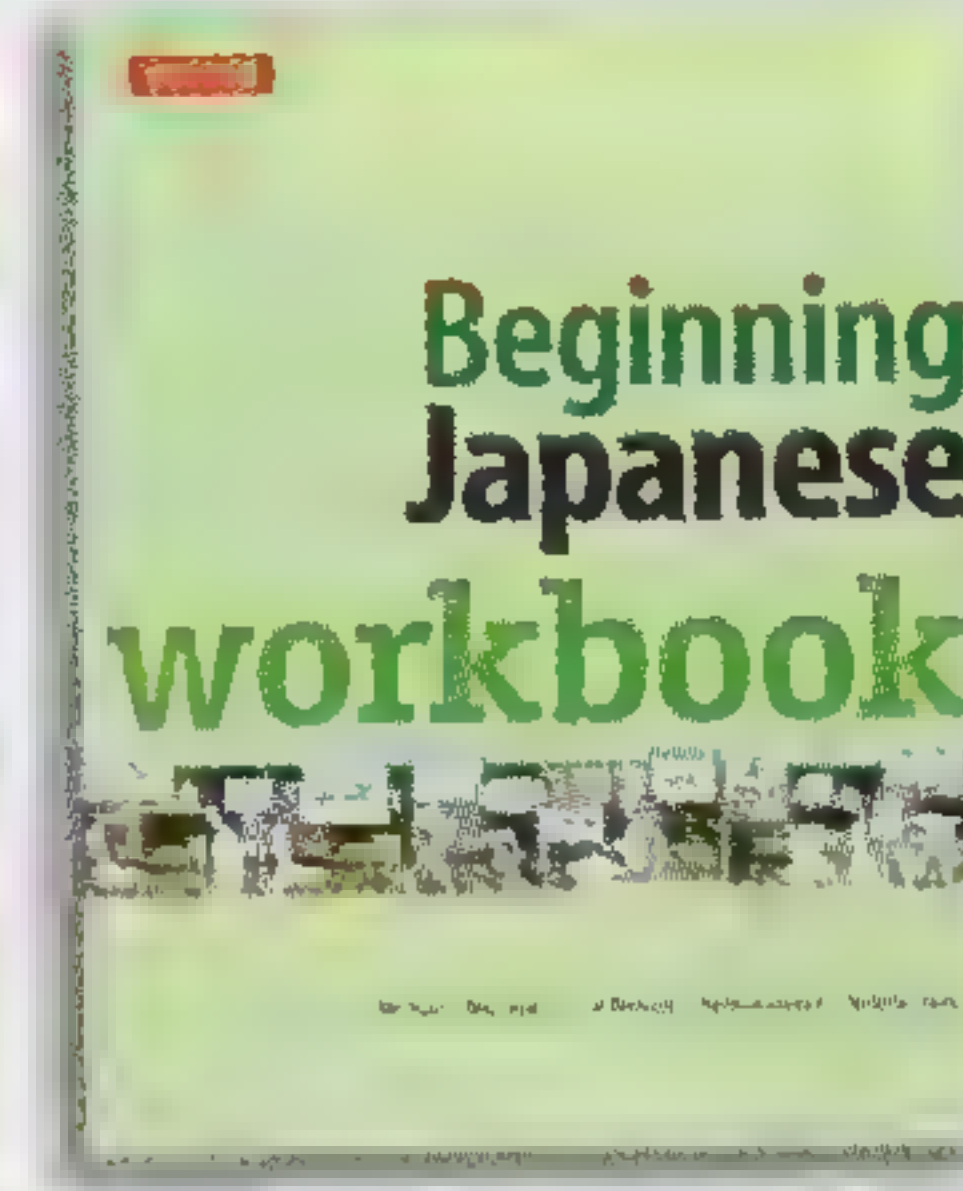
Essential Japanese 2
ISBN: 978 4 8053 1444 9
US\$9.95 / S\$13
Carton Quantity: 40

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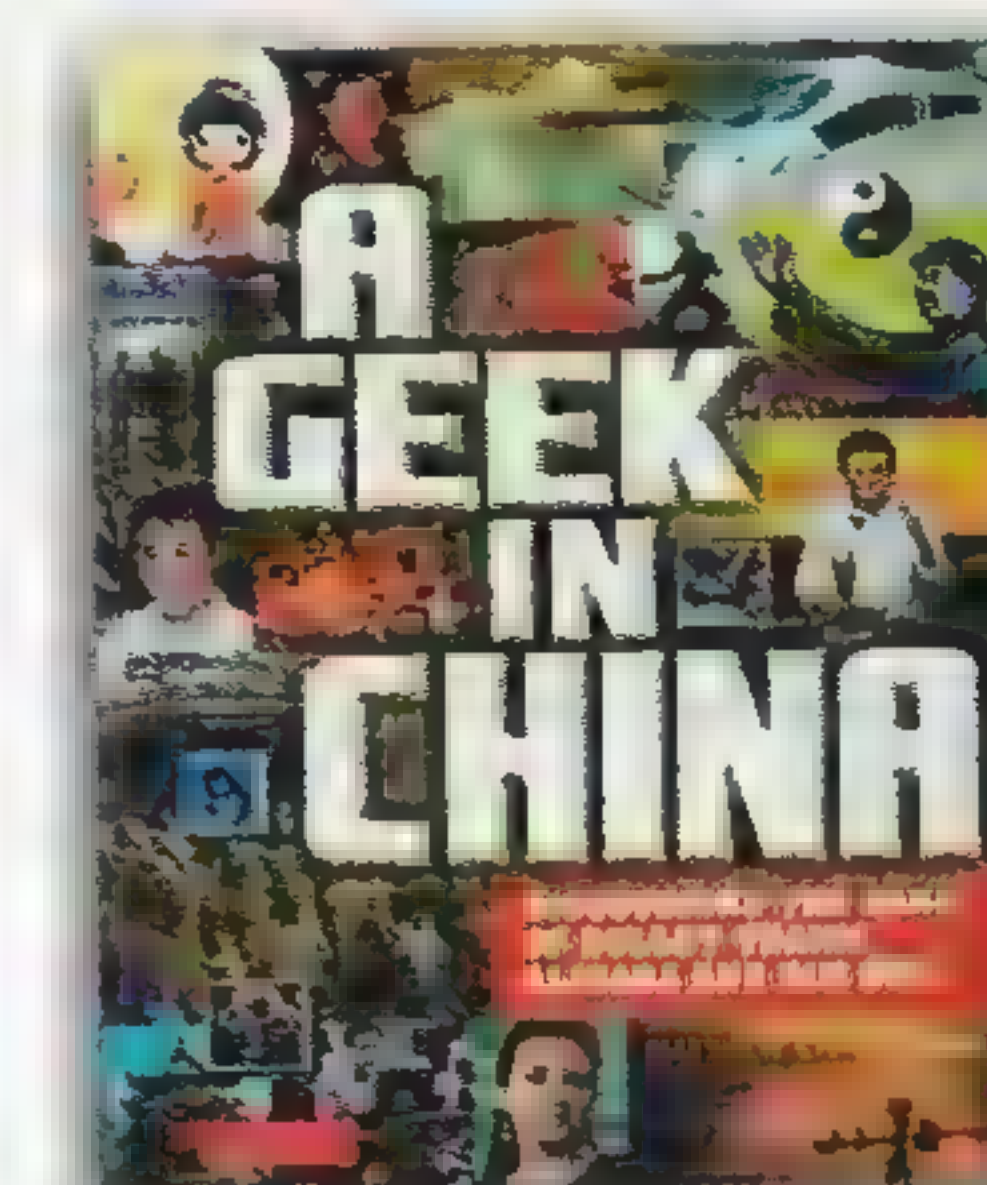
Essential Japanese Kanji V2
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Beginning Japanese Textbook 2
ISBN: 978 0 8048 4528 1
US\$29.95 / S\$38
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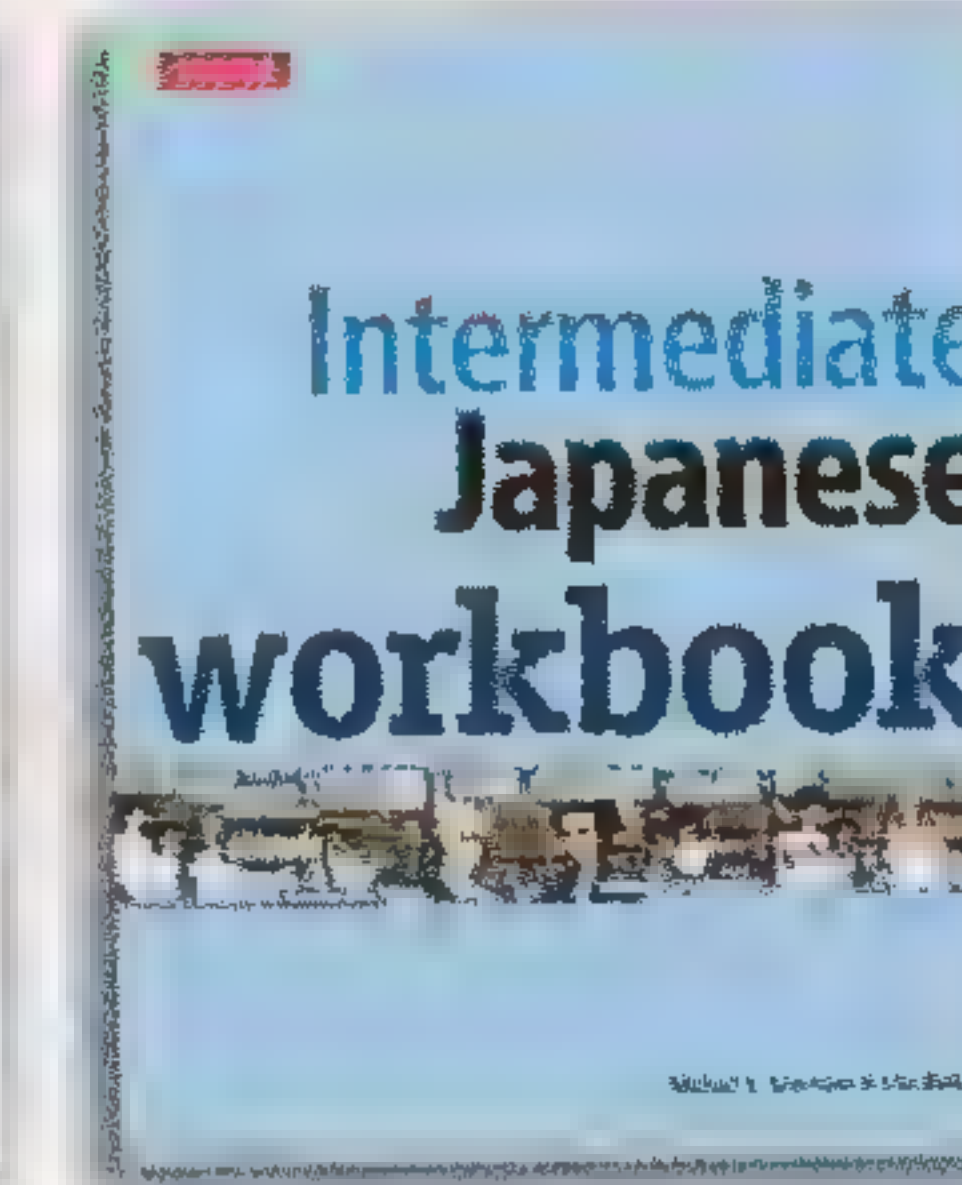
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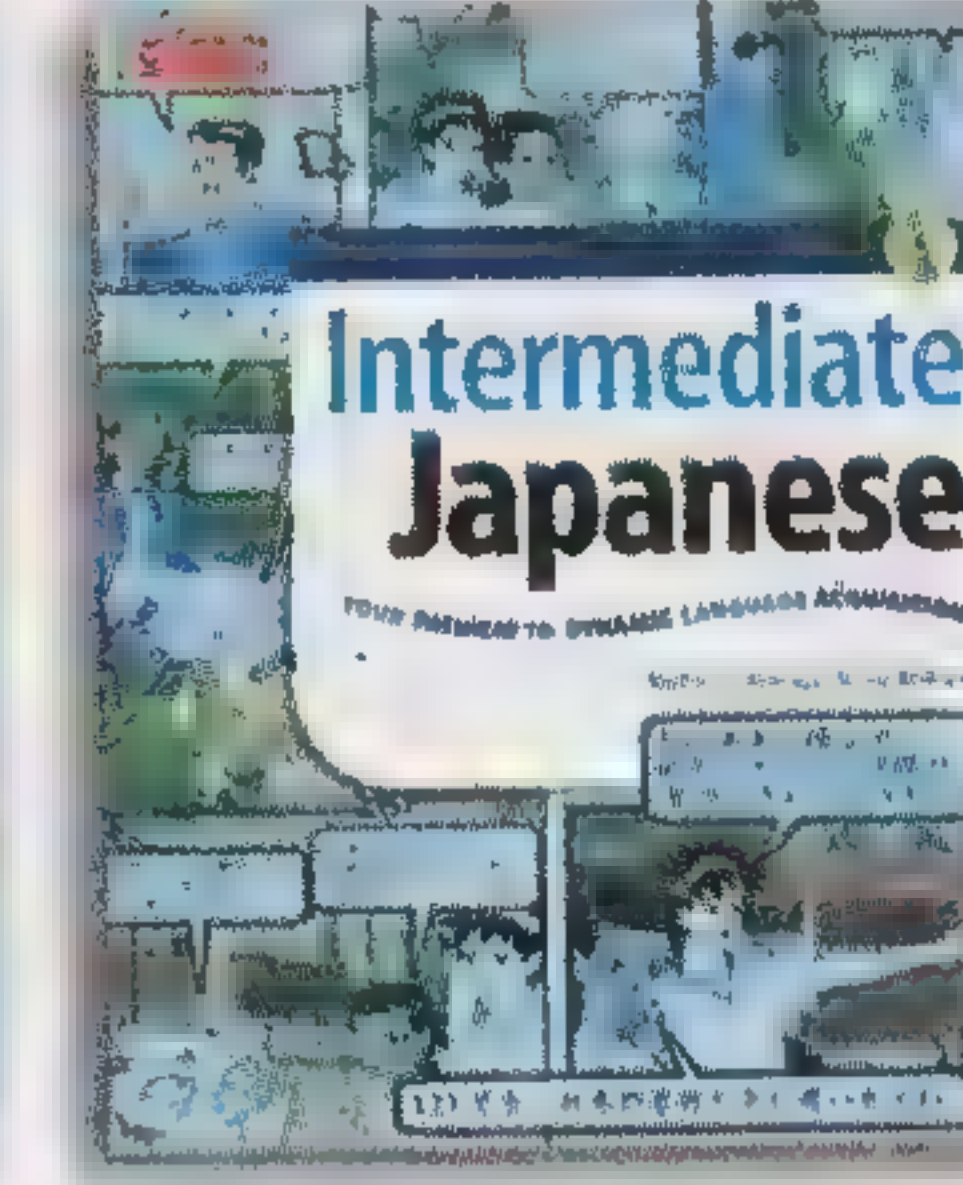
Geek in China
ISBN: 978 0 8048 4469 7
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Origami Bonsai
ISBN: 978 0 8048 4787 2
US\$16.95 / S\$22
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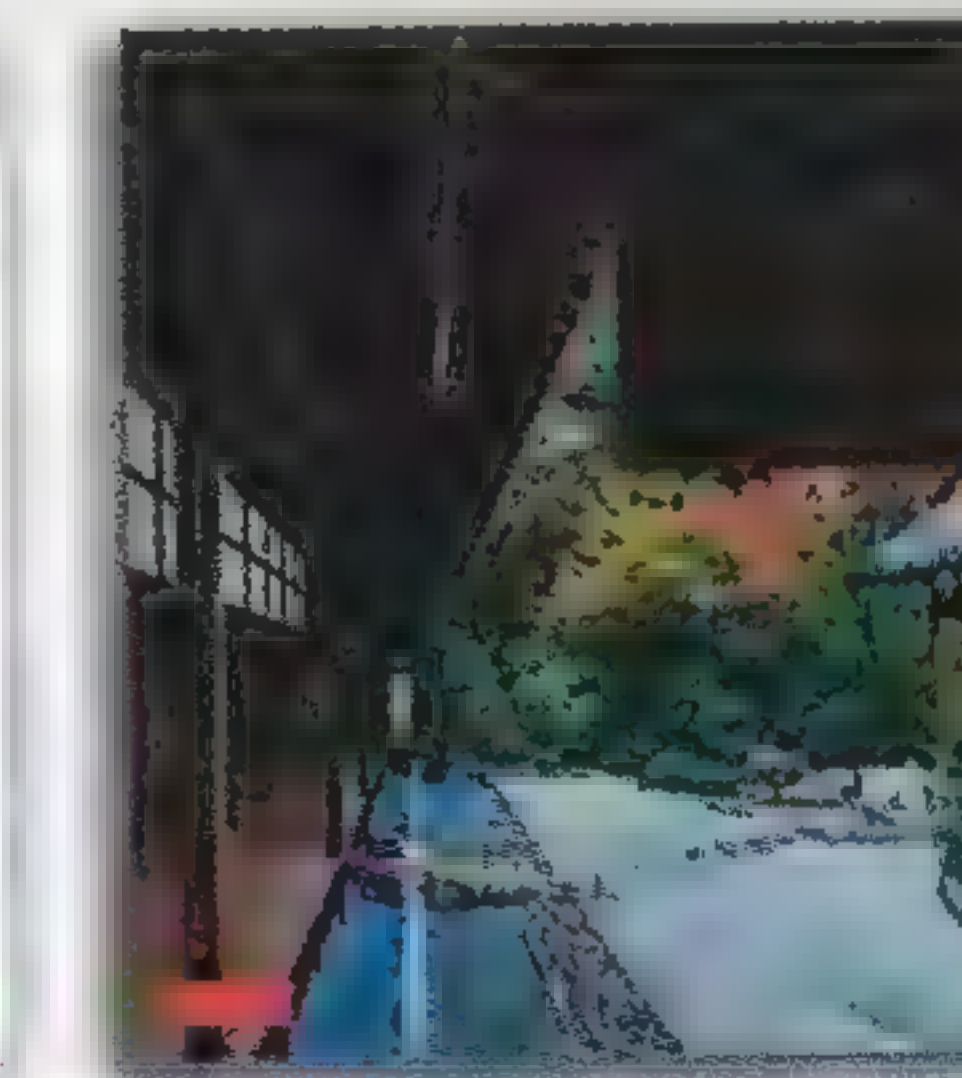
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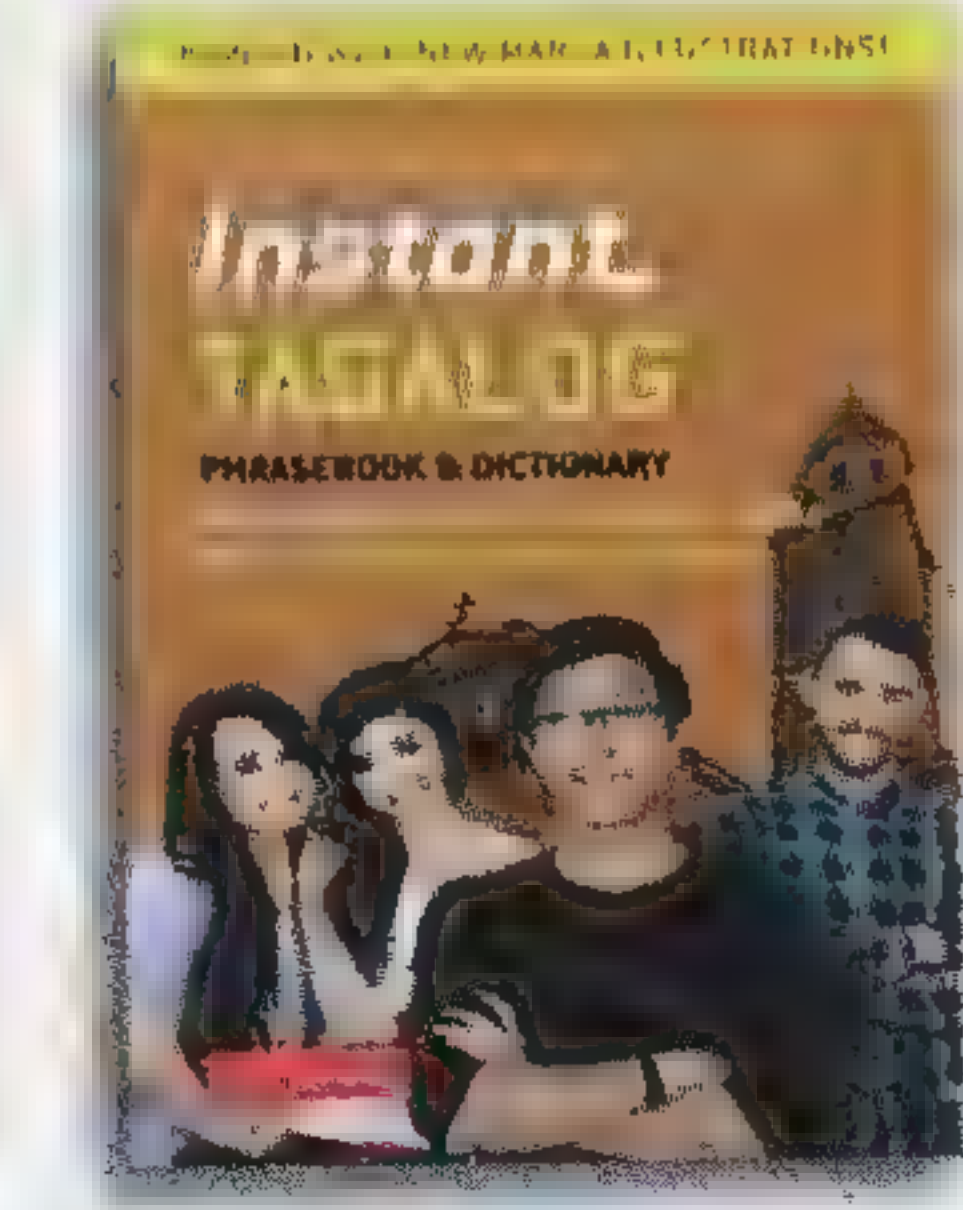
A Touch of Asia Coloring Book
ISBN: 978 0 8048 4842 8
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ISBN: 978 4 8053 1425 8
US\$19.95 / S\$25
Carton Quantity: 16

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True Path of the Ninja
ISBN: 978 4 8053 1439 5
US\$12.95 / S\$17
Carton Quantity: 40

Order Quantity: 

Instant Tagalog
ISBN: 978 0 8048 3941 9
US\$6.95 / S\$9.50
Carton Quantity: 60

Order Quantity:



PINK SCRAMBLE @ AMO YAMIE

There was an online guess-the-flavor challenge and I got really into it that I wanted to try the actual product the time it comes out. Thanks to an event in Ateneo, I got to go to the Katipunan Branch of **Amo Yamie Crib**.

Amo Yamie Crib Coffee and Movie House is a concept cafe and restaurant of "cribs" n. baby bed but for all ages. It was established in 2012 by the Dizons and their first branch in Pampanga got so many good feedback that through hard work, they have opened several branches all over the metro!

The name came from the Spanish word for love, "amor" + yummy = **Amo Yamie** which we find so adorable to say. The owner was inspired by the doll house toys of back then (I had one too) and since they have a movie house

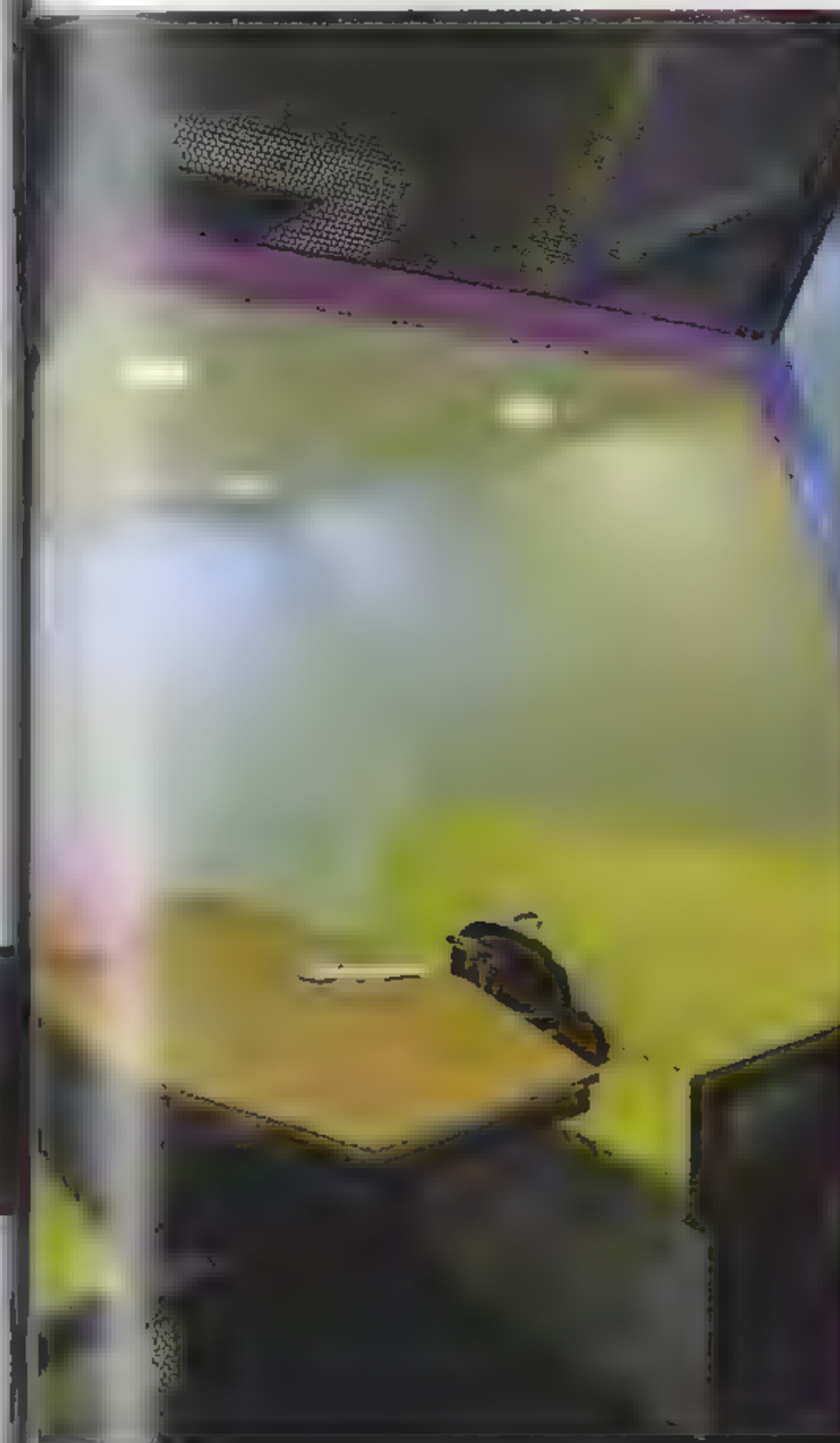
beside their first branch, they decided to incorporate that as well. We have not gone up to see the main branch but my experience in the Katipunan branch was very exciting too.

The owner was inspired by the doll house toys of back then

Coming from Regis Center, I walked towards Aurora and did not expect to see the Amo Yamie logo in my way. It was at the third floor of Oracle Hotel and upon entering, I was greeted by flowers, nice calming light and a wonderful view of Ateneo. Just on that floor, there were six cribs and a few tables. There were magazines for browsing and a small showcase pastries!

The store is proud of their insta-worthy food and drinks. From the flower pot cakes, pastas, waffles to their famous overflowing mason jar frappes. That was exactly what I came for.

The online challenge was to guess-the-flavor of their Pink Unicorn Frost and get the drink for free. I guessed watermelon and I was so wrong. It turned out to be the ever popular **ice scramble!** GENIUS.



The drink had marshmallows, rainbow tape, pastel pastillas, cookie, sprinkles, more sprinkles, pearls at the bottom and the delectable ice scramble (*ice iskrambol* if you remember that) shake. It was amazing.

The price was also student friendly which made sense because they have branches near schools. They also had a promo: for every purchase of Unicorn Frost, customers got to wear a unicorn onesie and get their pictures taken!

"Amor" + Yummy = Amo Yamie (love yummy food)

Each branch is designed with the customers in mind and boy are they cute! We wish to tour all branches in the future and maybe enjoy a cosplay shoot as well!

The Katipunan branch had two floors and the second floor had a wall or tree

of sticky notes, messages by happy customers and friends. The place did not have a glaring light you might experience in fast food restaurants (I hate those) and the cribs were nice and comfortable. Though some of the more holed up cribs can get less aircon than others, you can still choose other spot as there are so many to choose from!

I really enjoyed my stay. I hoped I could have also tried more of their food, treats and frosts but welp, it was just a short stay and a short article just to get you going so come and join us, cribbers!

Amo Yamie branches:
> 2/F Gordi Plaza Bldg, Legarda St, Mendiola, Manila
> The Yard Underground, Christian Route, Pasig
> 3/F Oracle Hotel, Katipunan Ave, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
> 3/F DB Bldg., 1250 España St cor P. Noval, near UST, Sampaloc, Manila



Boot Cover Tutorial

Hi Otafans! Are you ready for another cosplay tutorial? For this month, we will be teaching you guys how to do boot covers! Boots can be expensive and sometimes it does not fit you that good. But with boot covers, its cheap plus its handy and light to bring during events and you can make it according to your desired design and size.

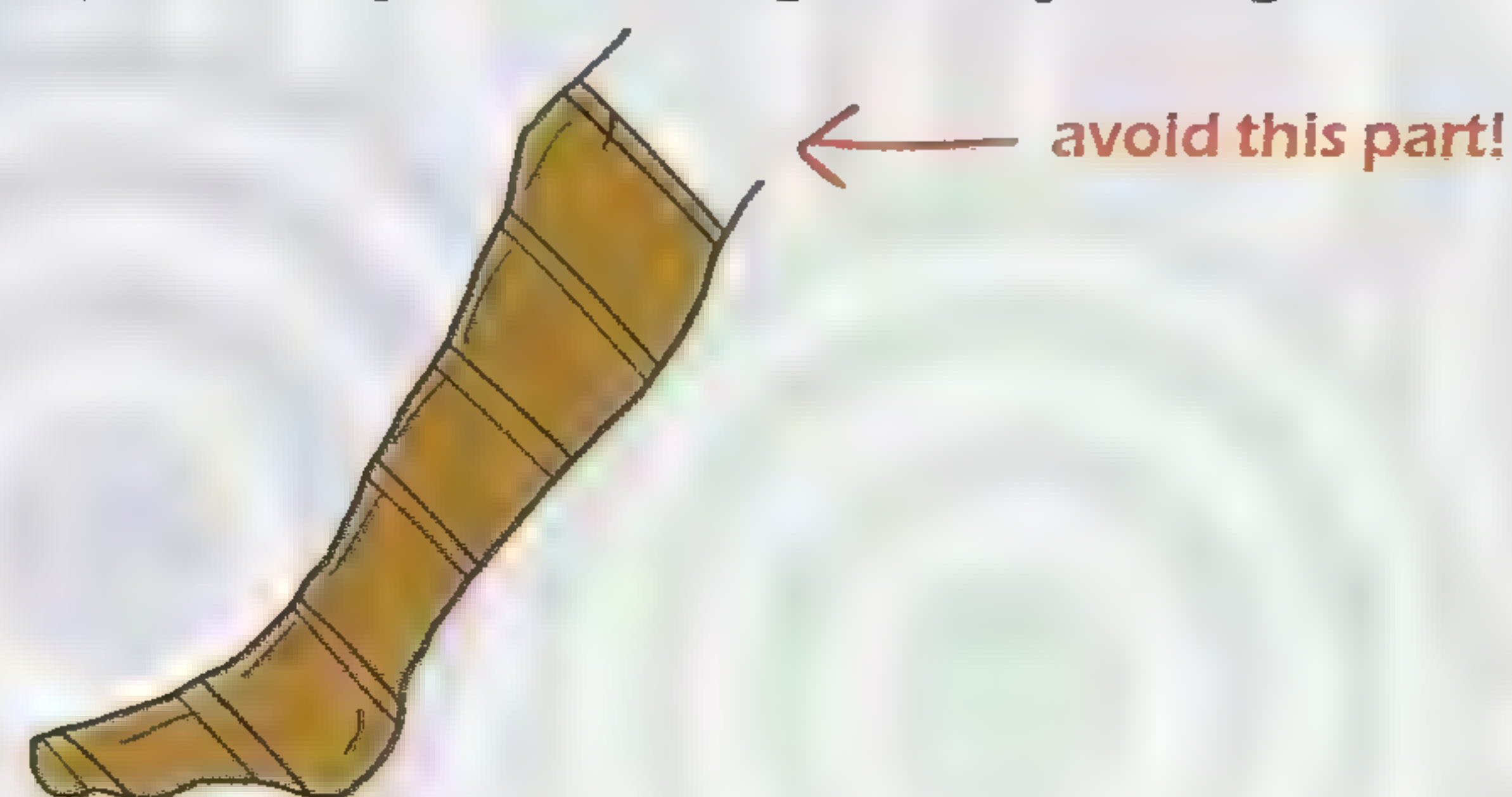
Materials Needed:

- cling wrap
- pencil pen
- packaging tape
- scissors
- cloth to be used (stretchable fabric is recommended)
- details, accessories to be used in glue
- needle, thread/sewing machine

1. Wrap the cling wrap around your foot and legs; until where the boots of the character you will be making is up to. We will be using Sasuke's Ninja Shoes as reference.



2. After that, wrap the duct tape around where the cling wrap is. Make sure it will not go beyond the cling wrap or else you will be facing the consequences. (It hurts when you remove it especially if you have long hair in your legs!)



3. Draw a line in the middle of your legs using the marker. (Please see image below) Carefully cut that part. Please avoid cutting your own skin. You may also ask a friend helping you in doing this step.



markings must be in place in front and back. Make sure that it is done in the middle part or else you will repeat from the start.

4. Fold it into half and then cut it also in the middle. This will serve as the patterns. Then get the cloth that you will be using and then trace the pattern into it. Don't forget to include .5 inch for the sewing allowance.



6. Cut and sew the edges and you're done! You can use any shoes since it will be covered by the boot cover.





NARUTO NINJA FOREHEAD PROTECTOR TUTORIAL

Hi Otafans! In this issue we will be also teaching you how to make your own Naruto forehead protector! Not all kinds of Forehead protectors are available in the market so you won't have to worry about that. It may sound diffucult to do but its actually otherwise!

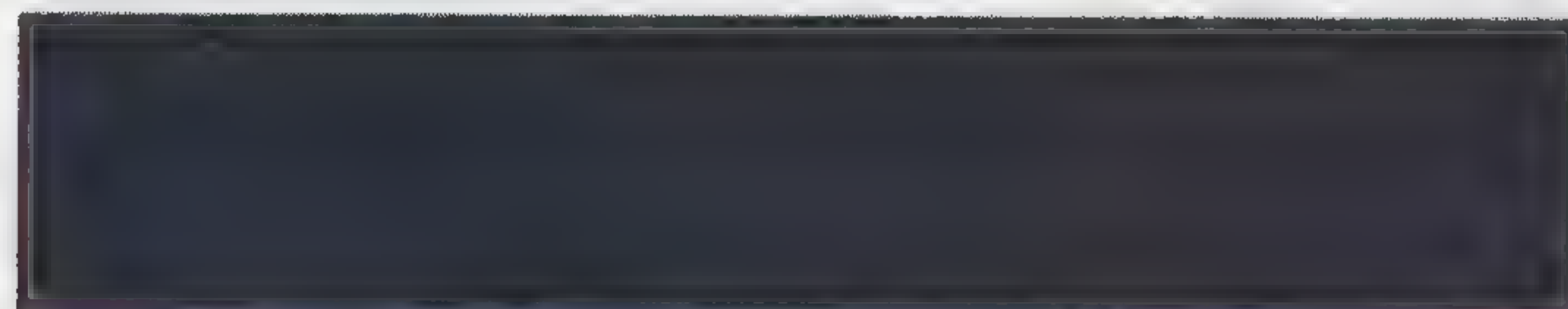
Materials Needed:

- red/blue/black cloth (depends on the character you will be cosplaying)
- thick rubbersheet
- primer paint
- gray paint
- paint brush
- greco glue or shoe glue
- cutter and scissors



Procedure:

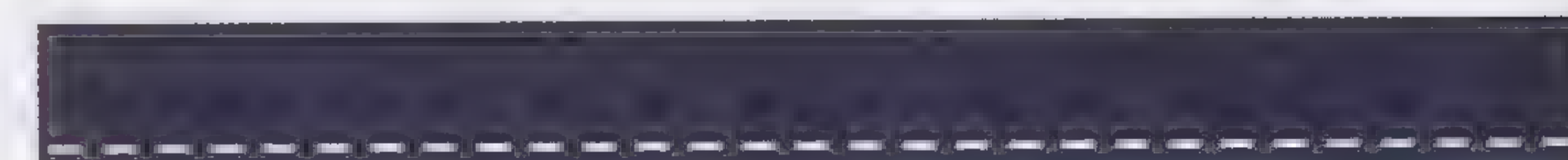
1. determine on how long your forehead protector shoud be. I suggest that its width must be within 3.5 to 4 inches.



2. Get the cloth then measure it the length then add 1 inch sewing allowance by height times 2. The cut it.

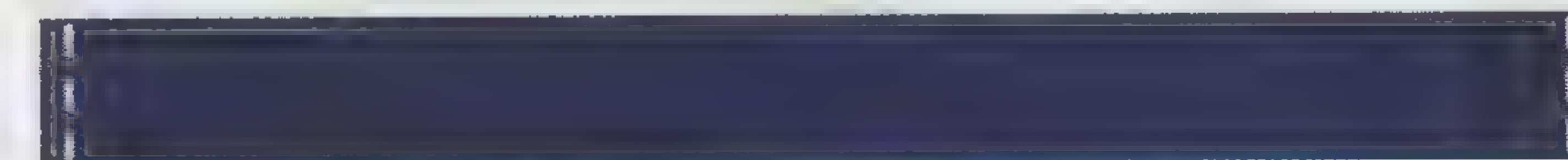


3. sew the sides except for the other side of the height side.



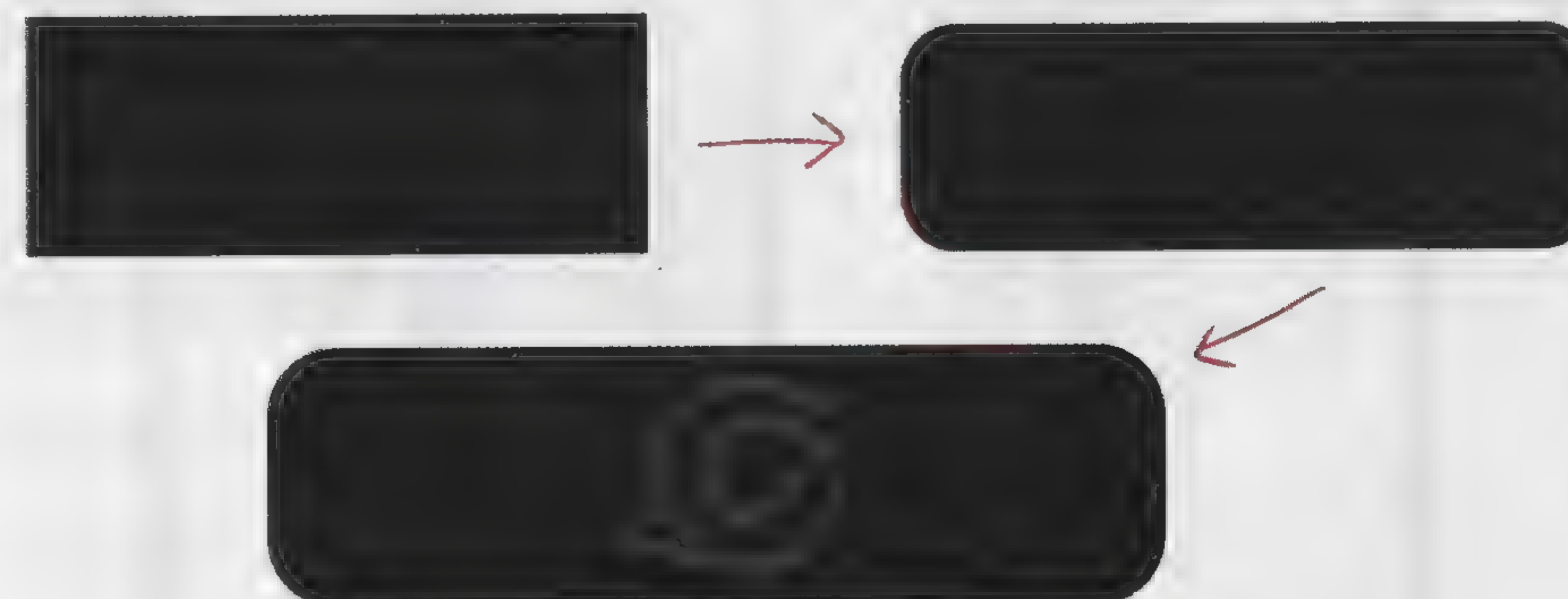
Sew on this side then reverse~

4. Reverse the cloth then sew all the sides. Make sure the open part will also be closed but remeber to fold the sewing allowance part inwards before sewing. Please refer to the image below.

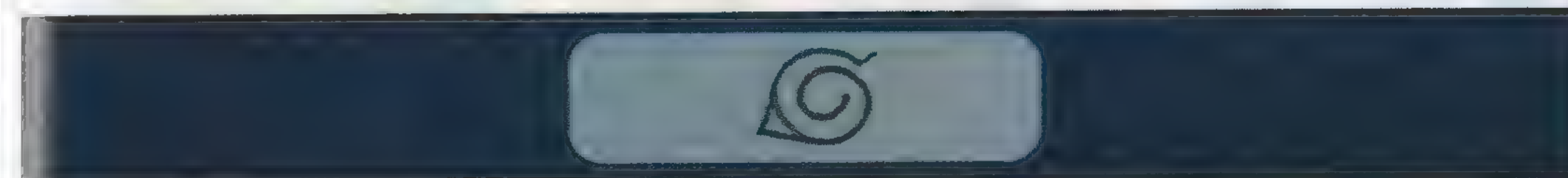


remember to fold inwards first before sewing!

5. Get the rubbersheet and then cut the plate part into your desired size. Using a marker, draw the symbol you will be needing for your forehead protector then engrave it using the soldering iron. Make sure to wear mask while doing this step! Make 6 pcs. of small circles then paste on the sides similar with the picture on the left side.



6. Paint it with primer paint first then with gray paint. Let it dry for about 2 hours then attach it with the cloth. Tada! Now you're done with your very own forehead protector!





OTAKUGOODIES

DATTE-BUY-O!

article by: Yani

Product Name

Nendoroid Naruto Uzumaki

Series

Nendoroid No:

Naruto Shippuden 682

Manufacturer

Good Smile Company

Category

Release Date

Nendoroid

2017/04



Since the announcement of Naruto nendoroids being released by Good Smile Company, the fans rejoiced since there is only a small chance that this will happen! The first one that they've released is Naruto of course! As you can see, it comes with a background of Kurama plus it also includes Naruto's ultimate moves: the rasengan and rasen shuriken. In addition, it also comes with Naruto's different modes: Kyuubi mode and the sage mode!

This release of nendoroid is quite special so it's one of the nendoroids you must have. Not all nendoroids have backgrounds plus the packaging has a flap; a feature that other nendos don't have. The packaging also comes with 2 types of texture, The text and objects are the glossy ones and the rest are matte. This nendoroid also is partnered with Sasuke Uchiha's nendoroid that will be also released along with Kakashi Hatake this 2017!

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Photography by KL Portraits

Cosplayer: Beru Kashiragu



Our eyes are easily drawn to art works, and one artist who catches our eyes and sustains our attention is

Surfaçage

(pronounced sur-fa-saj' as noted on her social media)

Her mystical play of colors, blurring, and characters with arresting expressions in most of her works make them strike as paintings on digital screen. Lately, her social media is hitting off with *And The World Will Turn to Ash*, a bimonthly web comic series based off on the *Pokemon Go* leaders: Candela, Blanche, and Spark. We got to have a chat with her and here's what she told us:

MYSTICAL ARTS

by Ann

How will you best describe your work?
What makes your art style unique
(i.e. drawing and coloring techniques)?

It's a mixed bag. I do a little bit of everything, characters, backgrounds, storyboards. With my painted work, I like to focus on lighting and atmosphere, and with comic work, it's usually expressions and posing.

Who/What inspired your art style?

There's a lot, but I had a book on fantasy illustrations as a child. The artists I liked there the most were Frank Frazetta and Arnold Arre. Growing up and practicing more, my inspirations were Magic the Gathering card artists like Noah Bradley and Johannes Voss, and mangaka like Naoko Takeuchi and Kaori Yuki, and various doujinshi artists.

Which of your posted art works can
you count as your favorites?

It's so hard to choose...maybe these?
*see page 44 and 47

Recently, you posted your tools for your craft on your Facebook page, (including Photoshop CS6, Paint Tool SAI, Medibang Paint Pro, and SketchBook) but noted that it's about the artist. What can you say are the qualities that an artist must possess?

An artist must be, first of all, diligent. I think being a great artist is 95% hard work and 5% talent – this is a craft that takes a lot of practice and effort. An artist must be observant (so that you might apply what you see as inspiration for later) and not be afraid of taking risks (so that even if you think you cannot draw something, you still try.) They have to be patient and to not give up easily.

At first, you will suck. No way around it. You will feel terrible when compared to other, more experienced artists, and that feeling will not go away for a while. Here's the secret:

**don't compare
yourself to them;**

your benchmark should be yourself. There will always be someone better than you no matter what skill level. If you work to improve, do it because you want to, and don't fall into the trap of thinking 'I will never be as good as this artist, so I will give up.

**What is
your advice
to aspiring
artists?**


What made you want to create a
comic series of Pokemon Go leaders?

It just came about really quickly. The initial comic that went viral was just a one-off thing. I didn't expect it to become so popular! People wanted a continuation, so I made one, and it took off.

With the strong following of your And The World Will Turn to Ash, what other projects do you look forward to in the near future? What about your long-term goals as an artist?

The fancomic is scheduled to run for about three more years, but I'm looking to do more conceptual work and illustration. I'm trying to see if I could work on an original comic, but I don't really have that much time.

Long-term, I'm hoping to get good enough to get a project with a large company like Wizards of the Coast. I've done art tests with some game studios, and I have a lot more to learn.



From being a fan to making fanart and now to having fanart, we're rooting for Surfi and looking forward to seeing more of her stunning works! She'll also be joining us in O-kun Fiesta 3 as our guest and drawing contest judge.

Check out her comic series on:



www.surfacage.net/ash



[/surfacage](https://www.facebook.com/surfacage)



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OTAKUGOODIES

by kanddy



WE ALL WANT A GREAT WAVE SHIRT

Good shirts these days are hard to come by. There are cheap, scratchy shirts that are easy to lint and tear while there are thick, uncomfortable ones in hot weather. Now where are tees that are soft and sturdy and with Japanese graphics print? At Chi Shirts.

These shirts came at the right time when we started the OA videos, RevieWed every wednesday and we have been wearing these for events too! Team Chi were kind enough to send us three of their shirts: Pixel Kana, Great Wave and Matcha.

Team Chi is composed of two creative individuals. Kamille is the fangirl in-charge of the ideas and design concepts while minimalist ninja Andrew operates the business. Together, they thought over the brand, Chi Shirts from name, concept, logo and pricing.

Both are matchaddicts.



When the shirts came in our hands, they were tied together in twill. It was the simplest packaging I've seen for a shirt. They were inspired by how Japan manages to be trad and rad at the same time.

Trad+Rad, their design mantra stands for the traditional Japan's rich culture and history and the country's radically innovative pop culture. This is very evident in Shibuya and Harajuku's street-style fashion. We have been wearing the shirts and the one that got most attention was the Great Wave design. While the Matcha shirt got a lot of 'you really like matcha don't you' looks. Well they weren't wrong. I mean, it's a STATEMENT tee.

soft touch silkscreen printing on premium cotton blend shirts

As for our review on the shirts, we loved them. We will be definitely be buying the Great Wave and the Origami soon. The fabric was soft and thick so as not to tear, stretch or wear out easy and it was surprisingly cool (as in not hot but also cool like 'awesome'). The print looks like it does not fade fast or burn under ironing. Although we did not get a hold of the Sushi Bytes design, the colors look bright just as you want your sishi to be. For a very affordable price (this is cheaper than "convention special price offer" by other t-shirt printing brands), you get this top notch shirt!

Rest assured, we are looking forward to new designs from them! Hopefully not white ones (easy to dirty) so we can use the shirts to many events!

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CHARACTER BIO

by Mikelle

KANNA KAMUI

Race: Dragon
Age: 8 (In human years)
Likes: Naps, snacks and Kobayashi
Current Guardian: Kobayashi
Grade: Elementary School Student
Seiyuu: Maria Naganawa

Kanna is a very stoic, expressionless yet very emotional young dragon who came to live in the human world. She is also quite the mischievous troublemaker, who likes playing pranks on others which actually resulted to her being punished and exiled from her home in order to reflect upon her own actions. Kanna was surprised to find out that Tohru, one of her kind who had a grand battle with the gods, was able to survive and is currently residing in the same world she was banished to. Various circumstances arose with the end result being Kanna and Tohru ended up living with Kobayashi and are treated as actual family member. Thus their never-boring daily life begins.

Kobayashi decided to enroll Kanna in a local elementary school not only to learn about human society, but to gain human friends aside from her. Surprisingly, Kanna was able to fit in and actually made friends with her classmates and was able to become best of friends with Satsuki who she hangs out with most of the times.

Be it with her humanoid or dragon form, Kanna acts and behaves like a human child who enjoys fun moments with her family and friends. Through the rarely demonstrates any emotions, she tries to express the joy in the most subtle ways towards her loved ones.

As a dragon, Kanna's is able to match up with Tohru's strength and abilities. She uses electricity as her main power source as her tail acts as her charger which she plugs to a power outlet when at home. Though as she is younger than Tohru, there are some spells which she is unfamiliar with and sometimes relies on her elders for the things that she needs.

Despite the fact that she is of a different race, Kanna was able to earn a new family where she can return home to. If you want to find out more about Kanna's daily activities, follow Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid and experience their fun yet sometimes even surprisingly story.



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After almost four years of waiting, Shingeki no Kyojin fans' wish for a second season is finally granted!

In the year 2013, the anime world was brightened up even more when Shingeki no Kyojin manga, a four-year-old series then, was brought to animation. Many people loved it: the suspense, the storyline, the characters, and the art. I even know people who aren't into anime but likes watching this series. Hence if you haven't seen this yet, better check it out now 'cause you might be missing something great of a story!

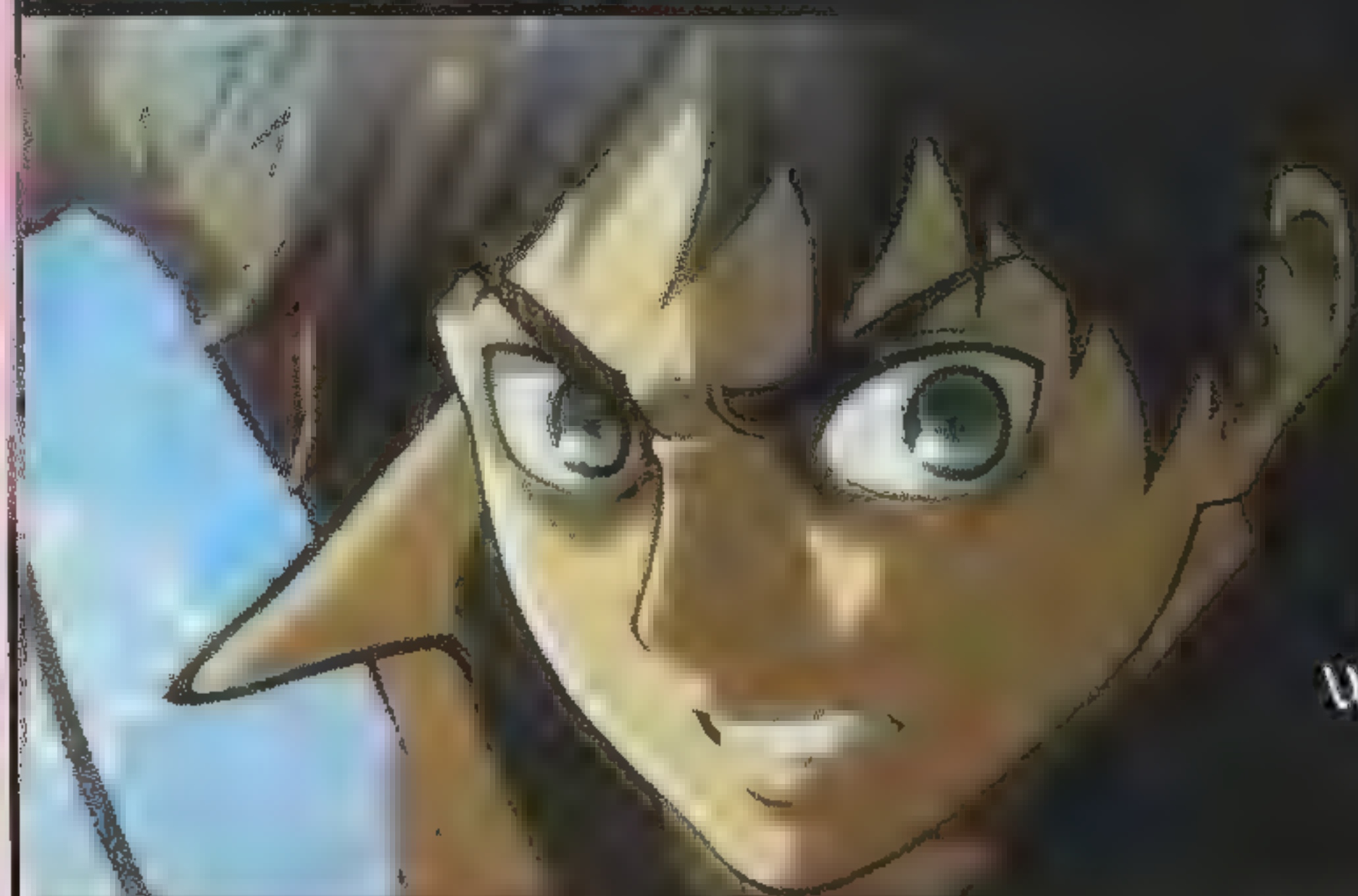
It was centuries ago when humanity fell into the brink of extinction because of the man-eating titans. Desperately trying to protect themselves from these titans, the last of the human beings hid themselves in tall concentric walls where they lived peacefully without a sight of titans for a hundred years. However, peace did not last that long when titans appeared once again, broke the outer walls, and devoured more humans.

Eren Jaeger, Mikasa Ackerman, and Armin Arlert were still kids that time when they witnessed their fellow people be overpowered by these fearful titans. Eren even saw his own mother being eaten alive by a titan at their very own house. They were terrified, but that was also the start when Eren vowed to kill and end all these titans by his own hands.

Years later, Eren, Mikasa and Armin joined the military and became part of the Survey Corps, the military group who goes outside the walls to make expeditions and discover what they can about the human-eating giants. Season 1 ended with their former classmate Annie, who turned to be the Female Titan, being apprehended by the military. It was such a cliffhanger that viewers asked so much for the second season to come out though it was only released now.



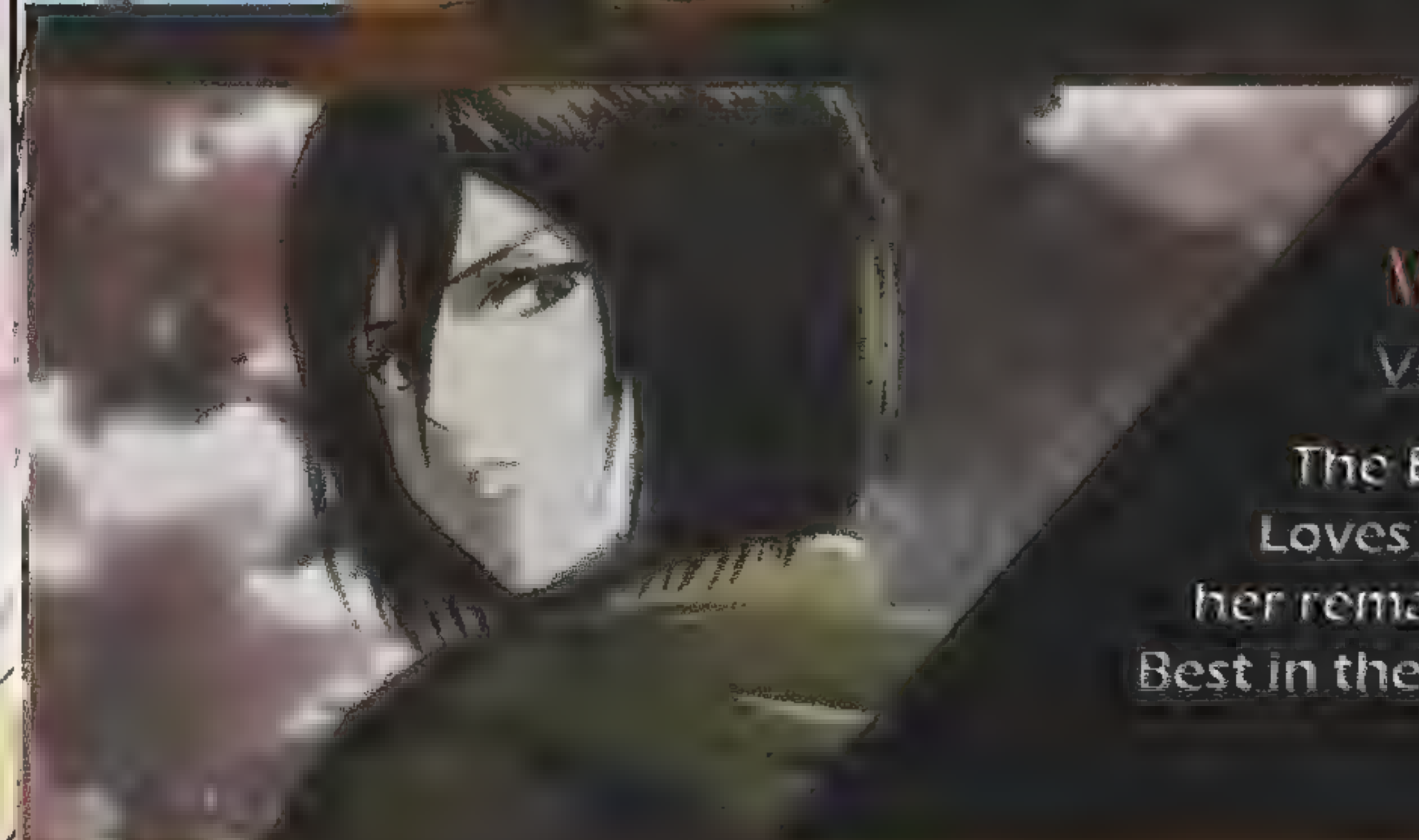
CHARACTER



EREN JAEGER

Voice Actor: Yuuki Kaji

The hot-headed protagonist.
Can turn into a titan and uses this ability to make true of his vow to kill all the titans. Well, that's kinda ironic.



MIKASA ACKERMAN

Voice Actor: Ishikawa Yui

The Eren loyalist.
Loves Eren the most as he is her remaining family together with Armin. Best in their trainee batch in combat skills.



ARMIN ARLERT

Voice Actor: Marina Inoue

The intelligent dreamer.
Wants to see the outside world.
Has sharp instincts and sound mind that saved them in a lot of situations.



104TH TRAINING CORPS

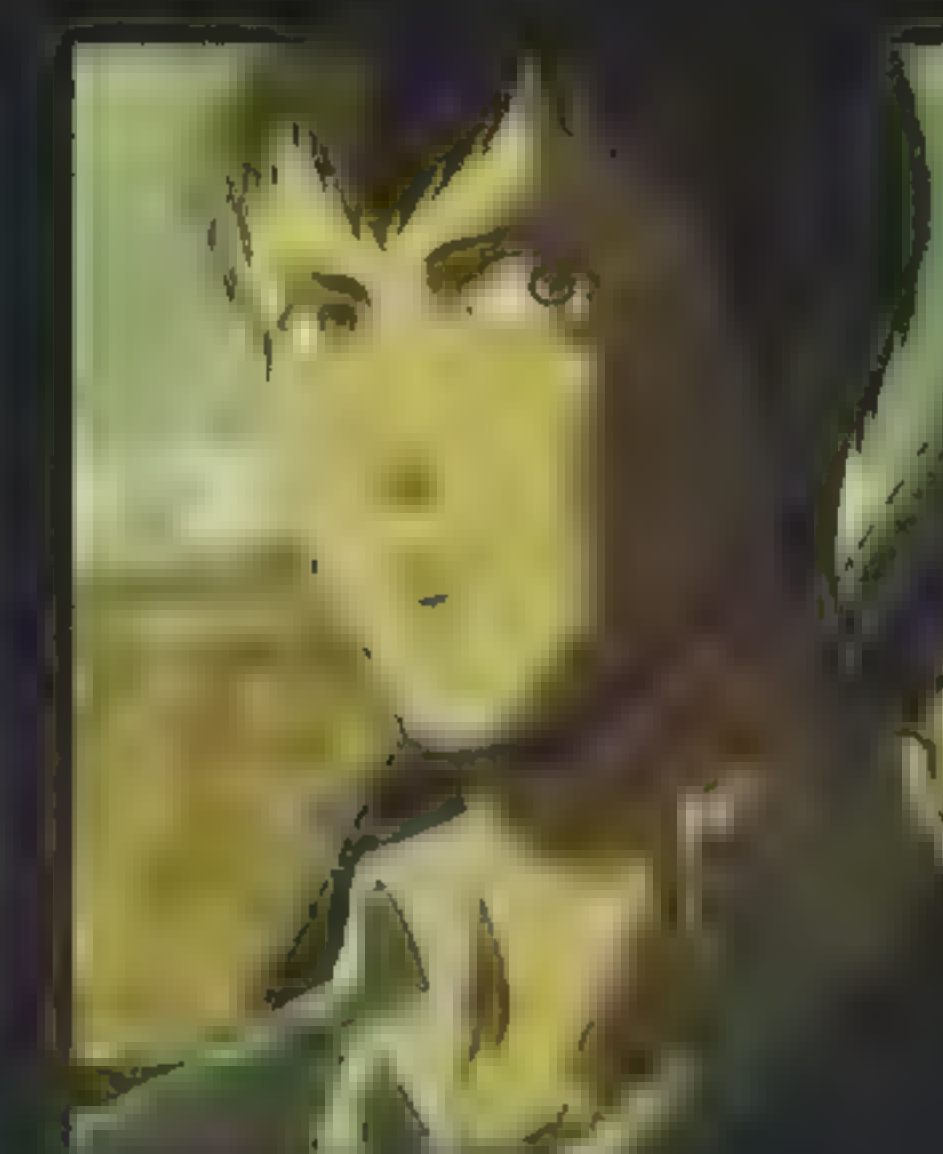
This is the batch where the trio is included when they were still trainees. Somehow, this group is the most controversial one and would later on be a big key to the development of the story.



REINER BRAUN

Voice Actor: Yoshimasa Hosoya

Ranked second in the class. Wanted to go back to his hometown which was attacked by titans before.



BERTHOLD HOOVER

Voice Actor: Tomohisa Hashizume

Ranked third. Also from Reiner's village in Wall Maria. Has great skills but more or less lacks the initiative and will.



ANNIE LEONHART

Voice Actor: Yu Shimamura

Ranked fourth. Was the most passive and loner type in the class. Turned out to be a titan shifter known as the Female Titan.



JEAN KIRSTEIN

Voice Actor: Kishou Taniyama

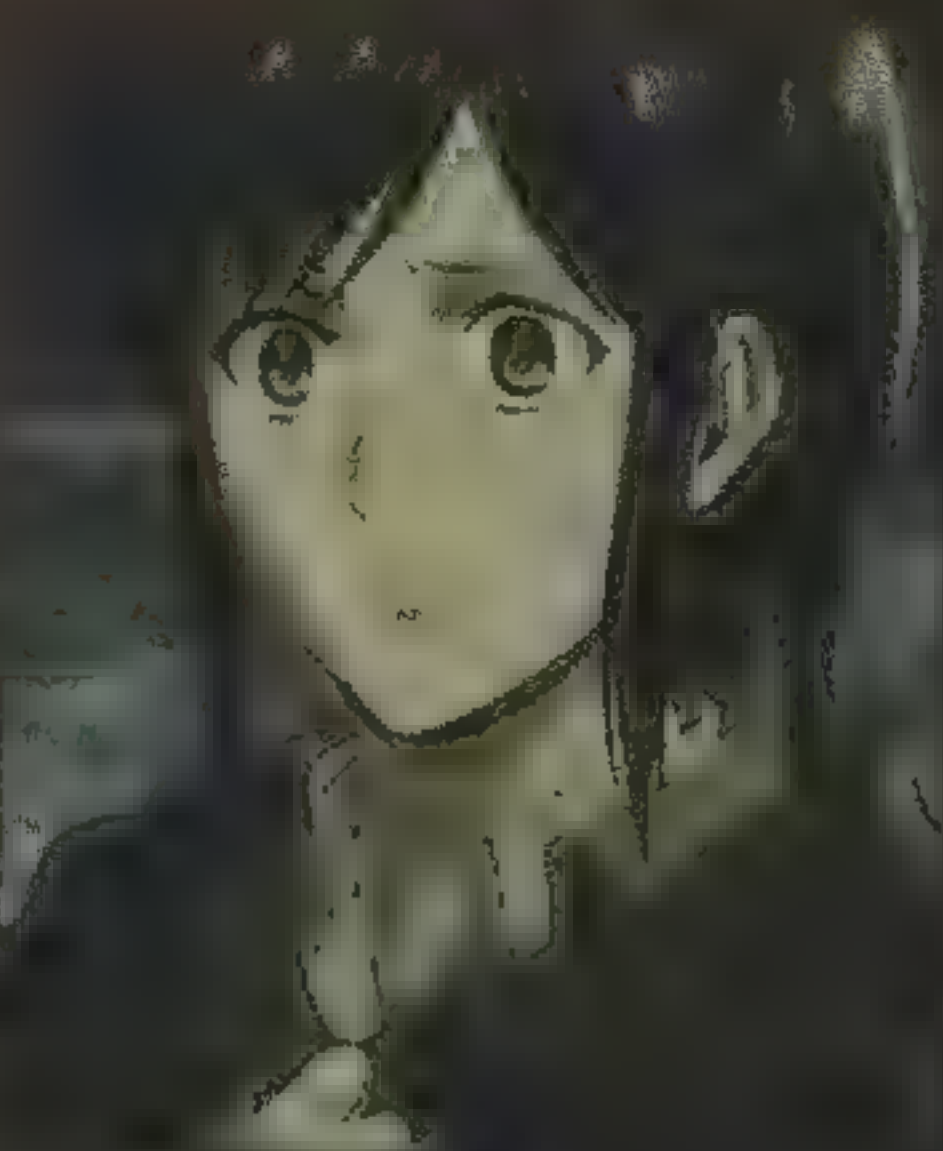
Ranked sixth. Always on each other's collar with Eren. Military Police the most but somehow ended up joining the Survey Corps for the death of his friend Marco.



CONNIE SPRINGER

Voice Actor: Hiro Shimono

Ranked eighth. Lively and funny. Planned also to join the peace of Military Police in the inner walls but joined Survey Corps after hearing Eren's speech.



SASHA BRAUS

Voice Actor: Yuu Kobayashi

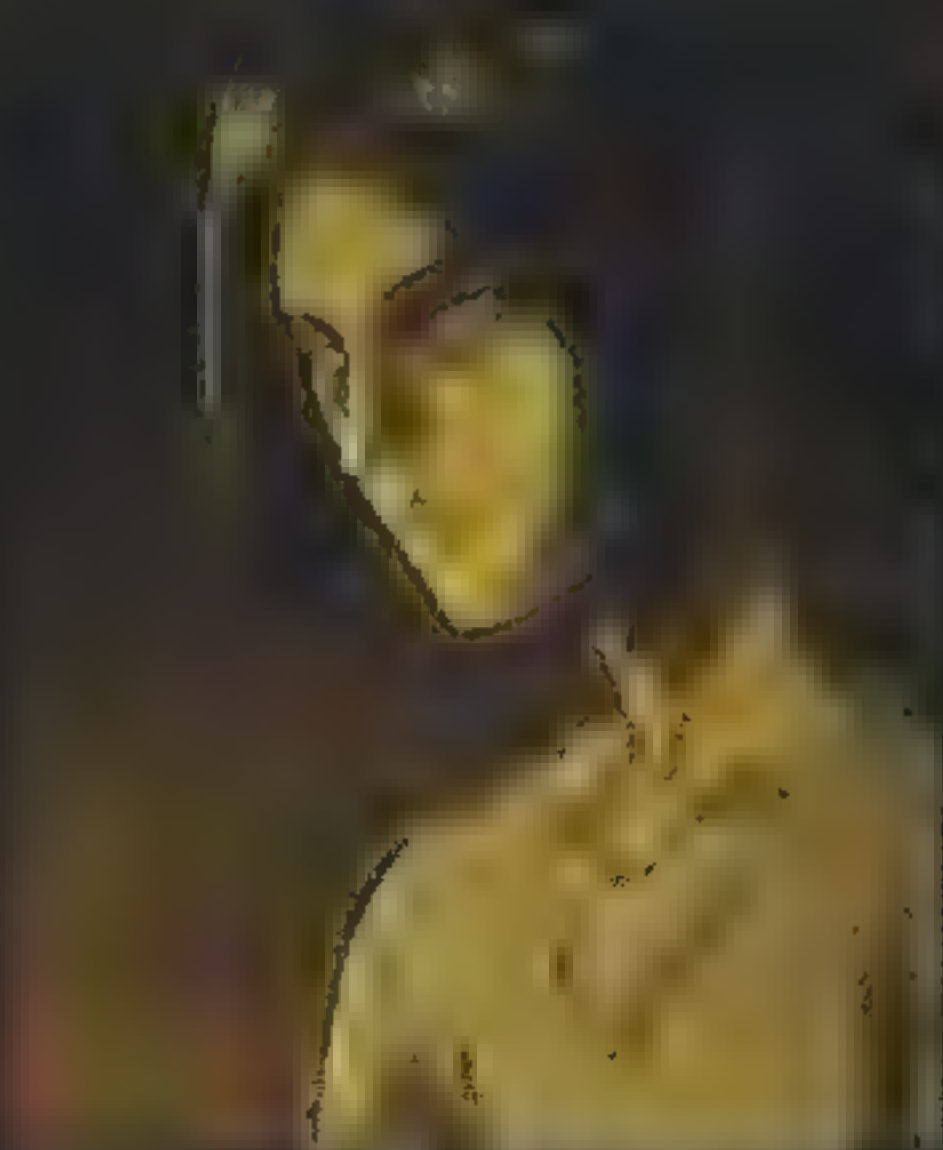
Ranked ninth. Known as potato girl after eating one during a drill in her trainee days. Has great instincts due to growing up in a clan of hunters. Sometimes an airhead.



KRISTA LENZ

Voice Actor: Shiori Mikami

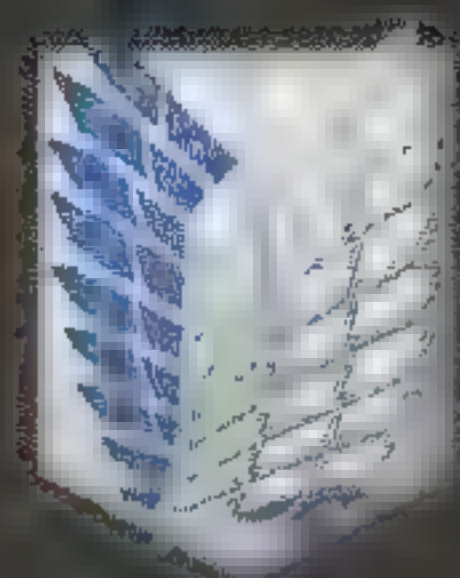
Ranked tenth. Angel of their group. Very pretty and petite that almost all guys has a crush on her. Warm-hearted and kind.



YMIR

Voice Actor: Saki Fujita

Closest friend of Krista. Said to have held back her skills to let Krista become part of the top 10.



SURVEY CORPS

It's definitely worth mentioning some of the best and interesting original members of the front liners.



LEVI

Voice Actor: Hiroshi Kamiya

Humanity's strongest soldier. Sharp with his tongue, very blunt, but has high respect in the authority. Clean freak.



ERWIN SMITH

Voice Actor: Daisuke Ono

Commander of the Survey Corps. Very clever and is the mastermind behind all their operations.



HANJI ZOE

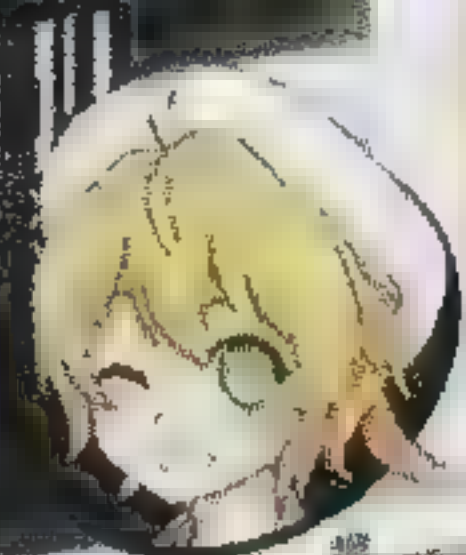
Voice Actor: Romi Park

Scientist with weird and extreme interests on titans. Leads the study of titans and shows no fear or hate against them.



Shingeki no Kyojin is an anime based on the same titled manga written by Isayama Hajime since 2009. In 2013, an adaptation of 25 episodes, licensed by FUNimation Entertainment was aired from April to September. It has won several awards including Animation of the Year, Best Director, Best Music, and Best Screenplay/ Original Story in the Tokyo Anime Award 2014. A movie was also released in 2015 entitled Attack on Titan: The Wings of Freedom, followed by two part live action movies which were also aired in Philippine cinemas.

Surely, this is one of the best anime in terms of the story and animation. It is great how the flow of arcs isn't dragging. It works at its own pace enticing the excitement of spectators to a high level. Moreover, anime doesn't go far from the original manga, so updated readers would be delighted to see the story in moving pictures. Thanks to Isayama, we have known of another exciting and unimaginable world that will forever be stamped in the minds who have watched it.



MOVIE REEL

by Ann



BLAME!

Comes out with a Bang!

東京空首

Our every flaw makes us human, but in our quest for a perfect system, these flaws might as well be the cause of our extinction. Zuru, a girl who goes out of her village to find food for her people, comes back to find them all killed by a group of Safeguard, the defense system of the The City's control network called Netsphere which turned against all humans without Net Terminal Genes. These genes are the last hope for humanity as it's the DNA of humans - with it, Killy, a man who possesses the weapon Gravitational Beam Emitter, can finally gain control of the Netsphere and stop the Safeguard from its killing spree. While wandering, he finds Zuru all alone and trapped in her village. Their fateful meeting is just the start of a long struggle to save all humans.

Set in the technological world, **The City**, the story sees the war between humans and their inventions as they all turn rogue and became uncontrollable using the **Netsphere**, which would only recognize humans with **Net Terminal Genes**. This is where Killy's quest becomes substantial as the restoration of order depends entirely on whether he can find these genes.

Back in 1997, **Blame!** (pronounced as "blam") was created by **Tsutomu Nihei** as a manga which has turned in up to 10 volumes under Kodansha Comics. On May 20, Japan will be seeing its animated movie adaptation with Takahiro Sakurai as Killy, Kana Hanazawa as Cibola, and Sora Amamiya as Zuru. Aside from theatrical release, Netflix will have the worldwide streaming available on the same date.



Creator Nihei was also behind **Knights of Sidonia**, whose anime adaptation was co-directed by **Hirofumi Seshita**. They are working together on **Blame!** with Nihei on script and character design and Seshita on direction with the production of Polygon Pictures. Another familiar name from the production of **Knights of Sidonia** is the band **angela** who is tasked to perform **Blame!**'s theme song.

With his background on architecture, Tsutomu Nihei's works feature a lot of vast structural constructions, as in the megastructures we see in **Blame!** However, that is not the only feature to be admired as the storyline pictures a world where humans attempt to transcend humanity but end up battling their own creations to regain it. Aside from that, viewers will be thrilled by the high-powered action scenes the film is expected to have.

***Blame!* will unquestionably make a full blast effect with the viewers, so better watch out for its release!**

EVERLASTING FRUIT OF SUMMER

by Mikelle

Natsume Yuujinchou Roku

Natsume Yuujinchou Roku is a supernatural slice of life anime by Studio Shuka. It was stated to premiere for the Spring 2017 anime lineup and as its name suggests, is the sixth season of the series. The show is adapted from a Japanese fantasy manga by **Yuki Midorikawa** which began serialization in **Hakuensha** as a shoujo manga in 2005 and has been collected in a total of 21 volumes.

The story revolves around **Takashi Natsume**, a 15-year-old boy who inherited his grandmother **Reiko**'s ability to see spirits along with a book of contracts which contains the names of spirits that Reiko has defeated, called the Book of Friends. Accompanied by **Nyanko-sensei**, his new foster family, and newfound friends; Natsume goes through countless life experiences while trying to unravel the secrets surrounding her late grandmother, and acquiring new friends along the way.

Natsume Yuujinchou's popularity is so widely acclaimed that even non-shoujo fans are hooked and are fascinated by development of the series. The show features so much depth that it could leave some watchers wondering about the moral or hidden message of the story.

Some of the earlier seasons of the series were produced by different animation studios. While the earlier has a more classic and nostalgic feel, the current production by **Studio Shuka** presents a modern style that adapts to the current animation standards. The opening theme is **Floria** by **Tomohisa Sako** while the ending theme is **Kimi no Uta** by **Rei Yasuda**.

Midorikawa designed the series to so that every chapter/episode could be read/watched on its own. Aside from the story's main plot, most episodes are made up of mini stories which feature new characters along with a brand new lesson to be learned. Each episode has its own moral that could pull your heart strings or leave your mouth gaping if you watched it unprepared.



THE POWER TO SURPASS ALL

by Mikelle

Boku no Hero Academia Season 2

With great powers come great responsibilities. This is the phrase that best describes this story full of friendship, rivalry and heroism. Being a hero can be considered as a dream job and a noble calling that could only be achieved by a selected few. Not everyone is destined to become a savior, those who were chosen have to take on the responsibility of helping others. While it is true that you cannot save everyone, heroes must always aim for the best possible outcome.

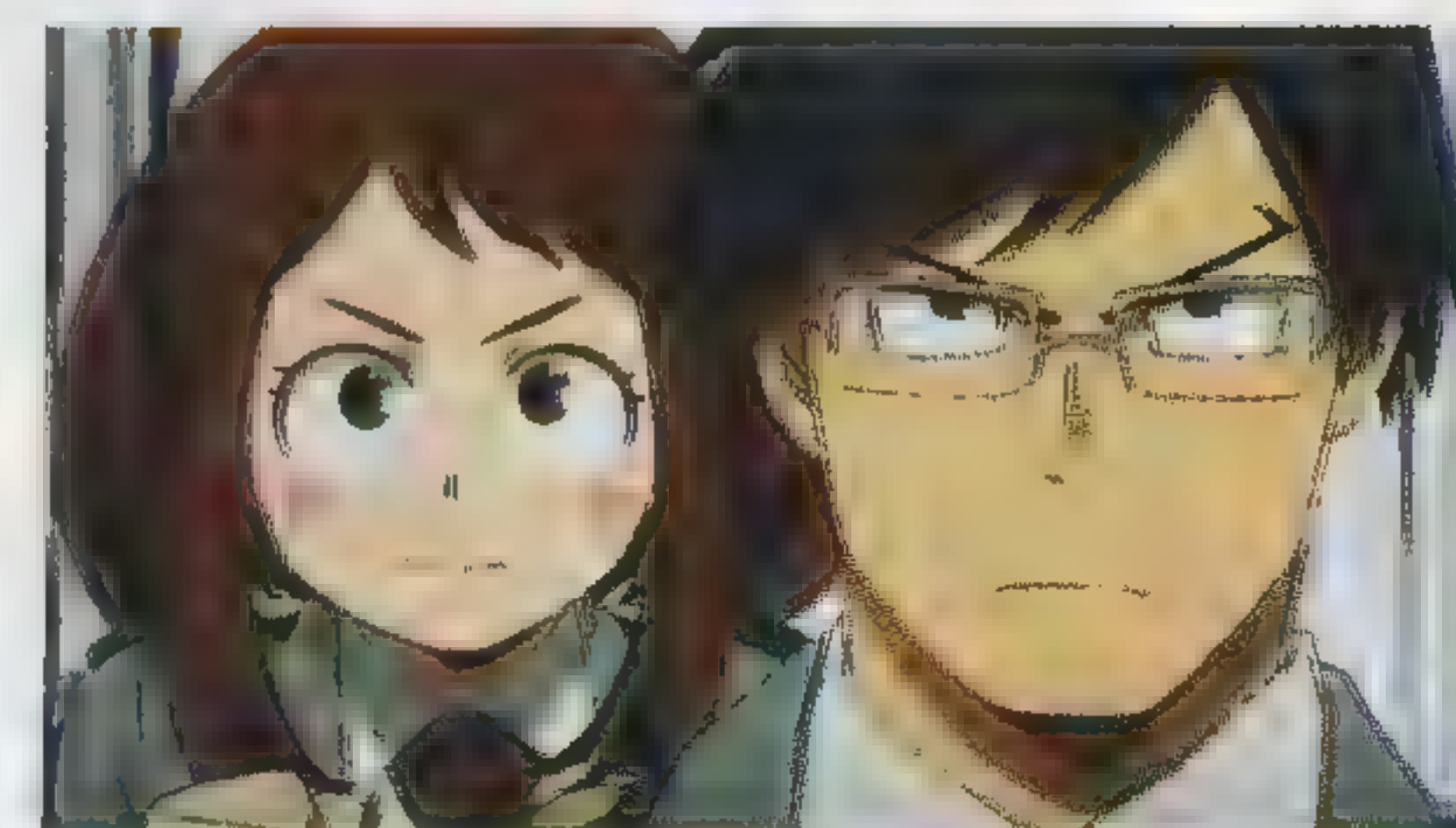
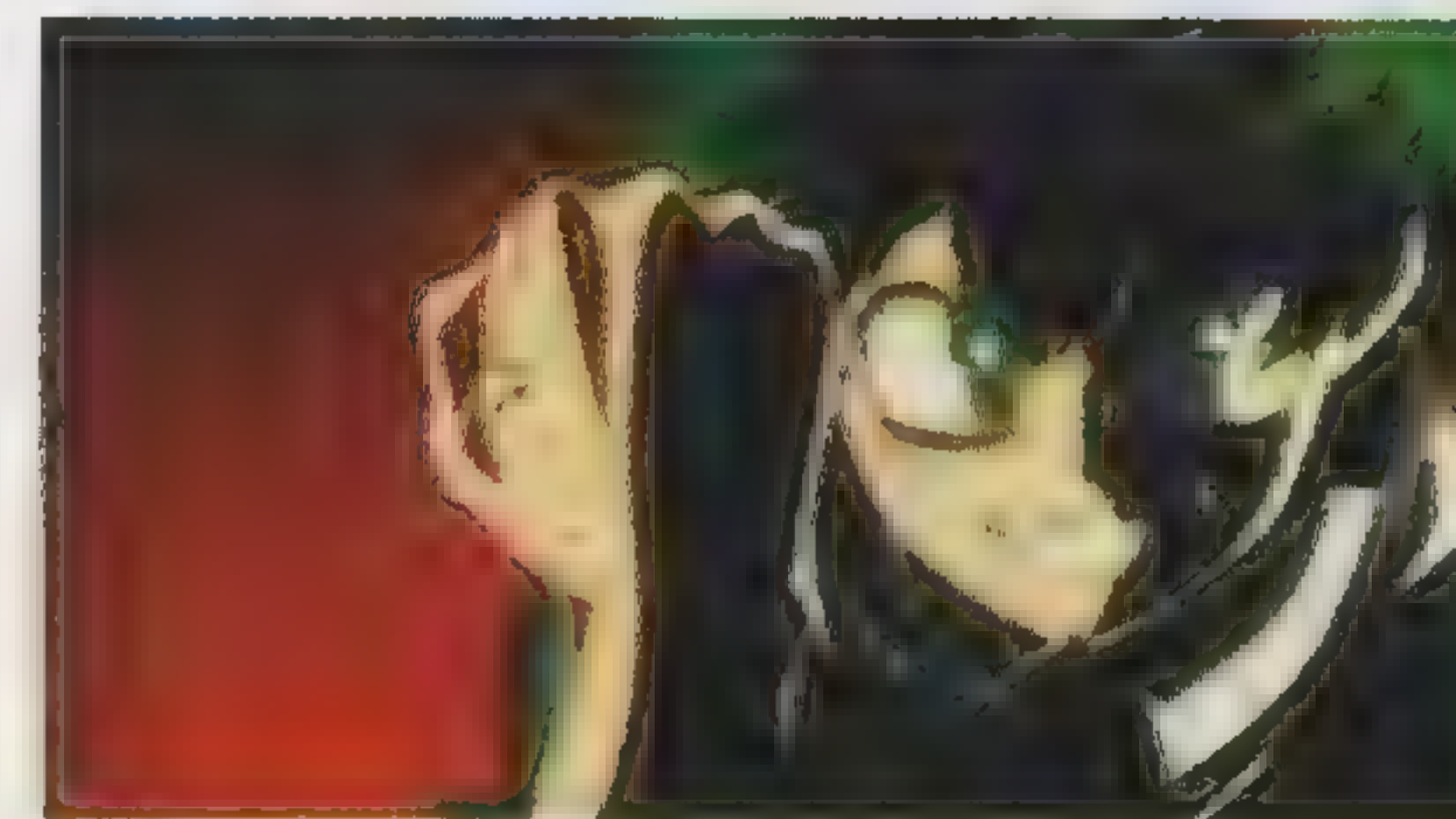
Boku no Hero Academia Season 2 is a super hero anime by **Studio Bones** for Spring 2017 season lineup and is the direct sequel of the series first season that aired last year. The new season will cover the **Sports Festival Arc** and the **Field Training**. The anime is an adaptation from the popular shounen manga series of the same title written and illustrated by **Kouhei Horikoshi** which is currently being serialized by Weekly Shounen Jump with a total of 12 volumes collected.

The 2nd season's story follows shortly after the villain invasion incident where **All Might** successfully repelled the **League of Villains** attempt to kill him. In order to cover up the incident, the academy continues on with the announcement of the upcoming sports festival. **Izuku** is then asked by All Might to prove his worth to the world and take this chance as his debut. Pressured by his responsibility as All Might's successor, the expectations from his friends as well as the daring declarations from his rival, Izuku must now strive for the top as he shows his resolve into becoming a super hero.

Boku no Hero Academia is definitely one of those shows that screams friendship and rivalry, heroes and villains, failures and success. Throughout the years we've encountered many shounen trope anime with most being forgotten after some time. But, this show is definitely unlike any other and it would definitely be a big mistake to not notice and pick up this epic series.

The 2nd season's opening theme is **Peace Sign** by **Kenshi Yonezu** while the ending theme is **Dakara, Hitori ja nai** performed by **Little Glee Monster**.

In a world where almost everyone is equipped with superpowers known as **Quirks**, how can someone even stand out and achieve the title of Hero. Follow **Izuku Midoriya** as he aims to fulfill his dreams in **Boku no Hero Academia**.



MY HERO ACADEMIA

僕のヒーローアカデミア

ERO-MANGA SENSEI

by James

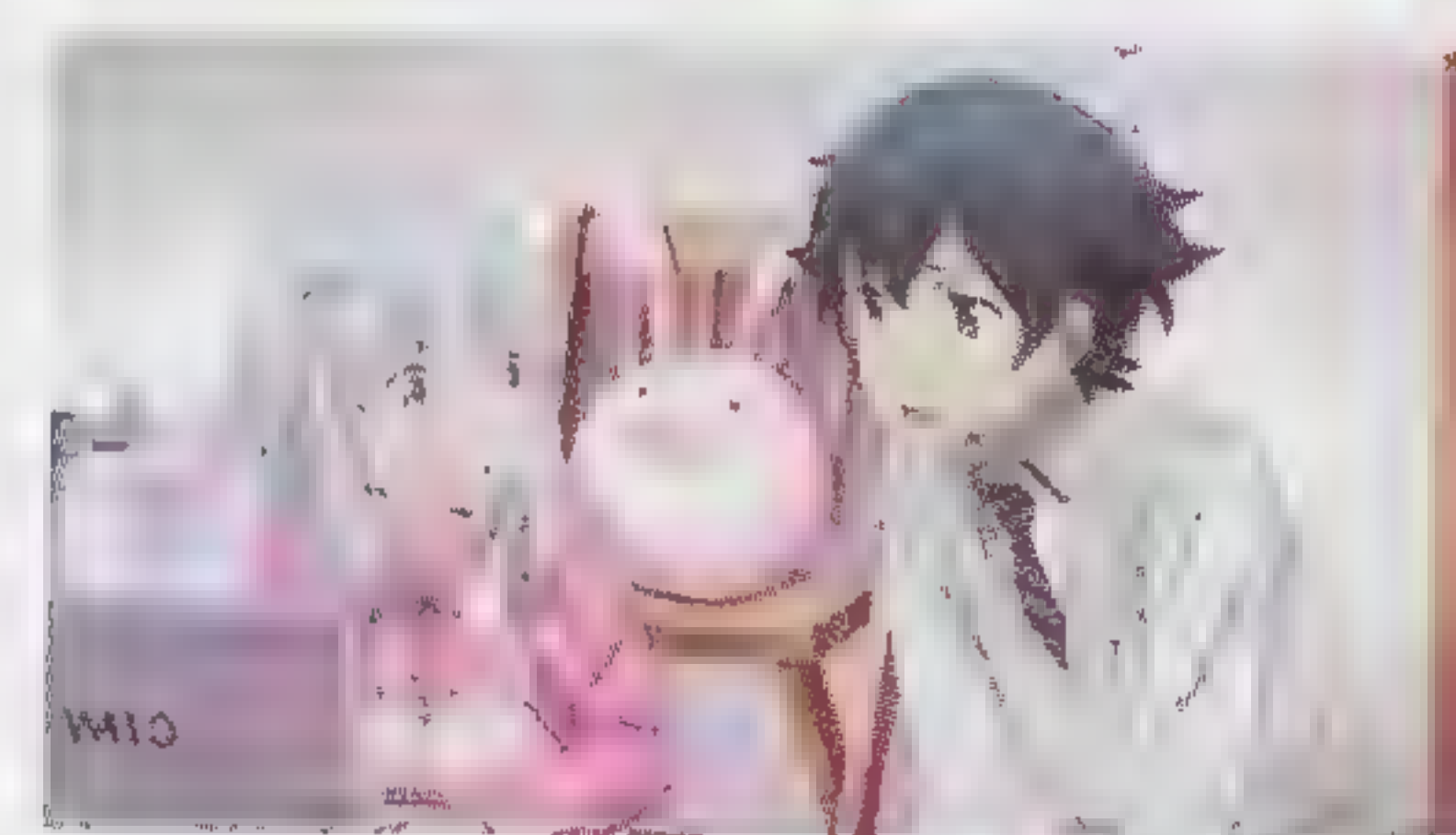
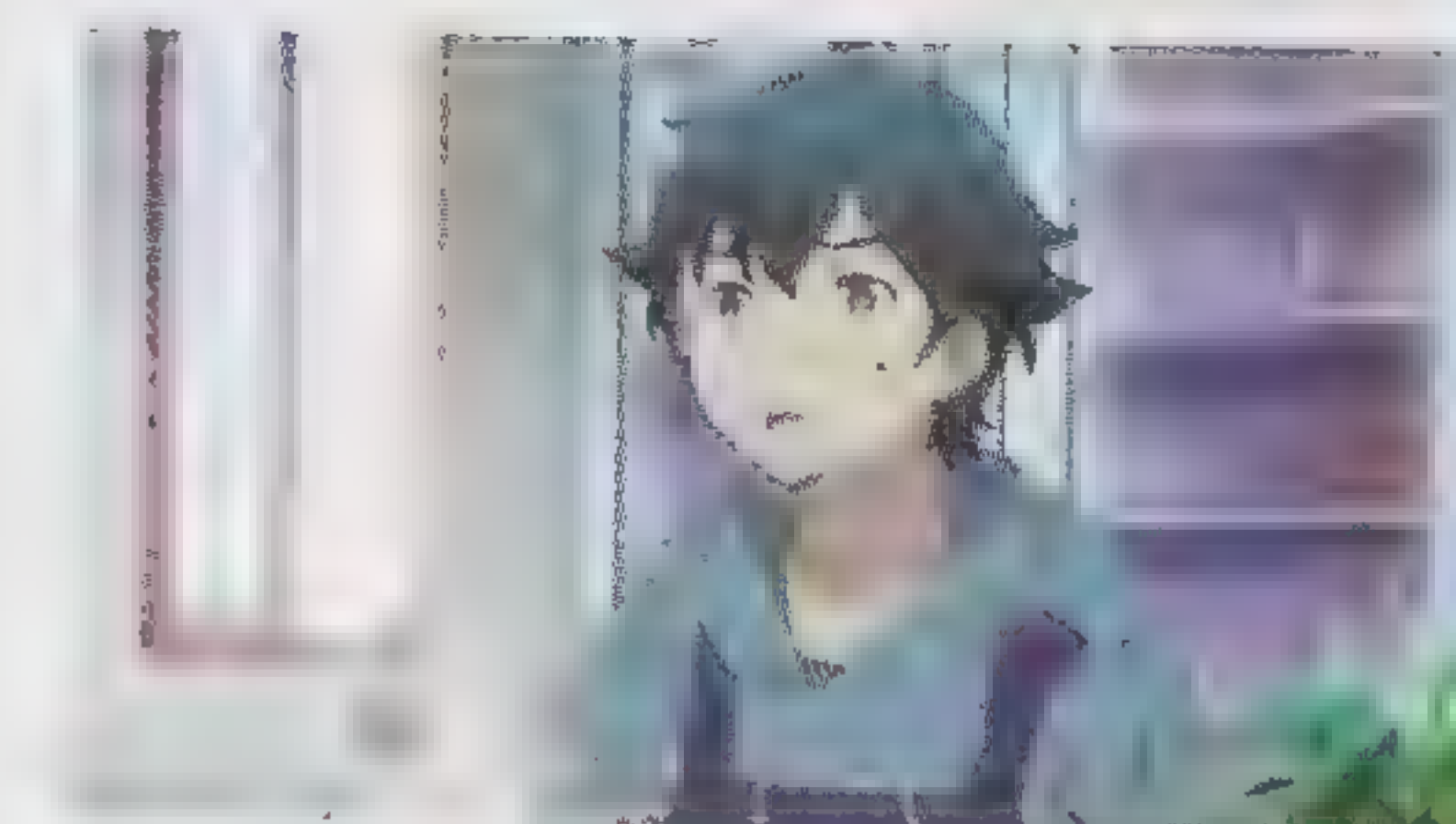
It's not uncommon for people to not be close to their own siblings, even when they see them every day. So just imagine how distant siblings would be if they have only seen one another once. And just imagine the surprise these two siblings – one an author, and the other an illustrator – would be in when they find out that they've been unknowingly collaborating with one another for the past year. That is very much the premise of *Eromanga-sensei*.

The series, which is based on the light novel of the same name, is about **Izumi Masamune**, an orphaned middle school student who's also a famous light novel author. Nobody, except for his publishers, knows that he is one. On the flipside, he has no idea who his illustrator is. He just goes by his pen name **Eromanga-sensei**. Because of how blatant his pseudonym is, as well as how talented he is at drawing beautiful girls and suggestive poses, Izumi assumes that he's just some disgusting otaku.

However, upon seeing a very familiar plush doll that's holding a note with his own handwriting in one of *Eromanga-sensei*'s live streams, he, much to his surprise, discovers that his illustrator is a she. And it's not just any she – it's his sister **Sagiri**, who has locked herself in her room for a year. Finally, they reunite. Finally, they'll be taking on the light novel scene as a better team. Finally, they'll be a family. And finally, imouto fanservice ensues.

Once again, **A-1 Pictures** put their A-game into this. Although the art style hardly stands out, they visuals are well-drawn and smooth, and the colors are warm and just right when it comes to brightness and softness. As for the plot and characters, they're very much tropes. What makes them unique, however, is the central theme of the anime, which is work in the light novel industry and brother-sister relationship. The former, surprisingly, makes up a huge bulk of the show, and the latter, also surprisingly, is mostly familial, although there are vague teases of incest as fanservice for the fans of the imouto theme.

Don't judge a book by its cover. Likewise, don't judge an anime by its seemingly crude and fanservice-oriented themes. That is very much true with *Eromanga-sensei*. While there are surely people that were, are, and will be driven off by what seems like fan-pandering, it's merely an exterior. Beneath all of those typical otaku-bait conventions is actually a good meta-anime with intelligent writing.





SAENAI HEROINE NO SODATEKATA (SAEKANO)

by James

Hey there, otaku who love otaku stuff about otaku making stuff for otaku! An anime that falls under that description just got a second season. So, which one? After all, there are already tons of them. Well, it's one of the most top-notch, intelligent, and heartwarming anime of that variety: **Saenai Heroine no Sodatekata**. More popularly known as **Saekano**.



For the uninitiated, **Saekano**, or **How To Raise A Boring Girlfriend** in English, is about **Tomoya Aki**, a high school student who's also an otaku. And like a lot of otaku, he wants to make something for otaku. For him, that'd be a dating sim. For that, he needs a team: Japanese-British childhood friend **Erii Spencer Sawamura** as illustrator; **Utaha Kasumigaoka**, light novelist and senpai; and Megumi Katou, heroine model, and the girl who he fell for at first sight. Thus begins their endeavor that leads to the usual harem stuff, lampshading of usual tropes in romance anime and dating sims, discussions on fan and creator relations, and of course, the realization that real girls and real romance is far from that in 2D.

The second season directly continues from season 1, and is once again made by **A-1 Pictures** and produced by **Aniplex** and **Fuji TV**. In addition, almost all seiyuus returned to their roles. If you have already watched the first season and want more, then this second season will definitely satisfy.

If you have yet to watch the first but want in on the meta goodness, then don't worry; you have all the time in the world to catch up.



DANMACHI GAIDEN: SWORD ORATORIA

by James

Anime spinoffs are usually small, niche, and hit-or-miss affairs. With that said, how about a DanMachi spinoff? With its big world and mythos and colorful cast, there's so much material to work on and be spun off into its own. And for this particular spinoff, the lead time around would be the one known as the Sword Princess, **Aiz Wallenstein**. Follow her story in **DanMachi Gaiden: Sword Oratoria**.



Based on the plot and sharing the same setting of DanMachi, *Sword Oratoria* is about the adventures of Aiz Wallenstein. Aside from being one of the very few of Orario's first-class adventurers, she's also an executive of the **Loki Familia**. Join her in her adventures across Orario, where she meets faces that are familiar to those who have already watched the original DanMachi, as well as those never before seen in Bell and Hestia's story.

Produced by the same companies, also made by **JC Staff**, and with **Saori Oonishi** voicing our female spinoff-lead once more, *Sword Oratoria* is a must-watch for those who have already watched the original DanMachi and would like more stories in the same setting. As for those uninitiated in the series, *Sword Oratoria* can be an entry point, and even a good one at that, but it'd be better to go with DanMachi first.

If you are already expecting that DanMachi-flavored action-adventure, then you're going to love *Sword Oratoria*. If not, then it's either you do some binging first, or go and take the plunge. Either way, you're in for an exciting treat.

SIN: NANATSU NO TAIZAI

by James

You know those anime that are "on the fence"? The kind of anime that gives non-anime fans a bad impression of the entire art form? And the anime that people think is the season two of Meliodas and friends' adventures?



Sin: Nanatsu no Taizai is all of that. So let's cut all pretensions and admit it: you're not here for deep religious allegories; you're here for entertainment. And it does deliver. **Sin: Nanatsu no Taizai** is an anime adaptation of **Hobby Japan's** media franchise of the same name, although it's mainly focused on figures. Given the fact that the show is based on figures, there's not much to work on. This leads to a premise that isn't any more than this: a loose (pun intended) and ecchi-fied retelling of **Lucifer's** fall. This time, however, Lucifer isn't a he, but a sexy blonde she-devil. And rather than being prisoner number one in hell, she challenges the seven **Prime Devils**, which represents the **Seven Deadly Sins**: **Leviathan** with Envy, **Satan** with Wrath, **Beelzebub** with Gluttony, **Mammon** with Greed, **Belial** with Vanity, **Asmodeus** with Lust, and **Belphegor** with Sloth. Intense supernatural devil-to-devil battles and ver-the-top fanservice ensue.

The show is definitely eye candy in the animation quality, character design, and the content, which seems too "much" for its rating. This, however, is its greatest redeeming factor; the show just isn't impressive in other aspects. The setup and story are barebones, and the theme is weak; all of this results to characterization that is stereotypical and shallow. But once again, because there's not much material to work on, it shouldn't be a surprise that the show falls flat when it comes to anything other than the visuals.

Take **Sin: Nanatsu no Taizai** for what it is: an ecchi anime whose first concern is to push the genre's boundaries, while its demon-versus-demon superpowered battles come at a far second. Once you've done that, then you'll definitely find the anime enjoyable.

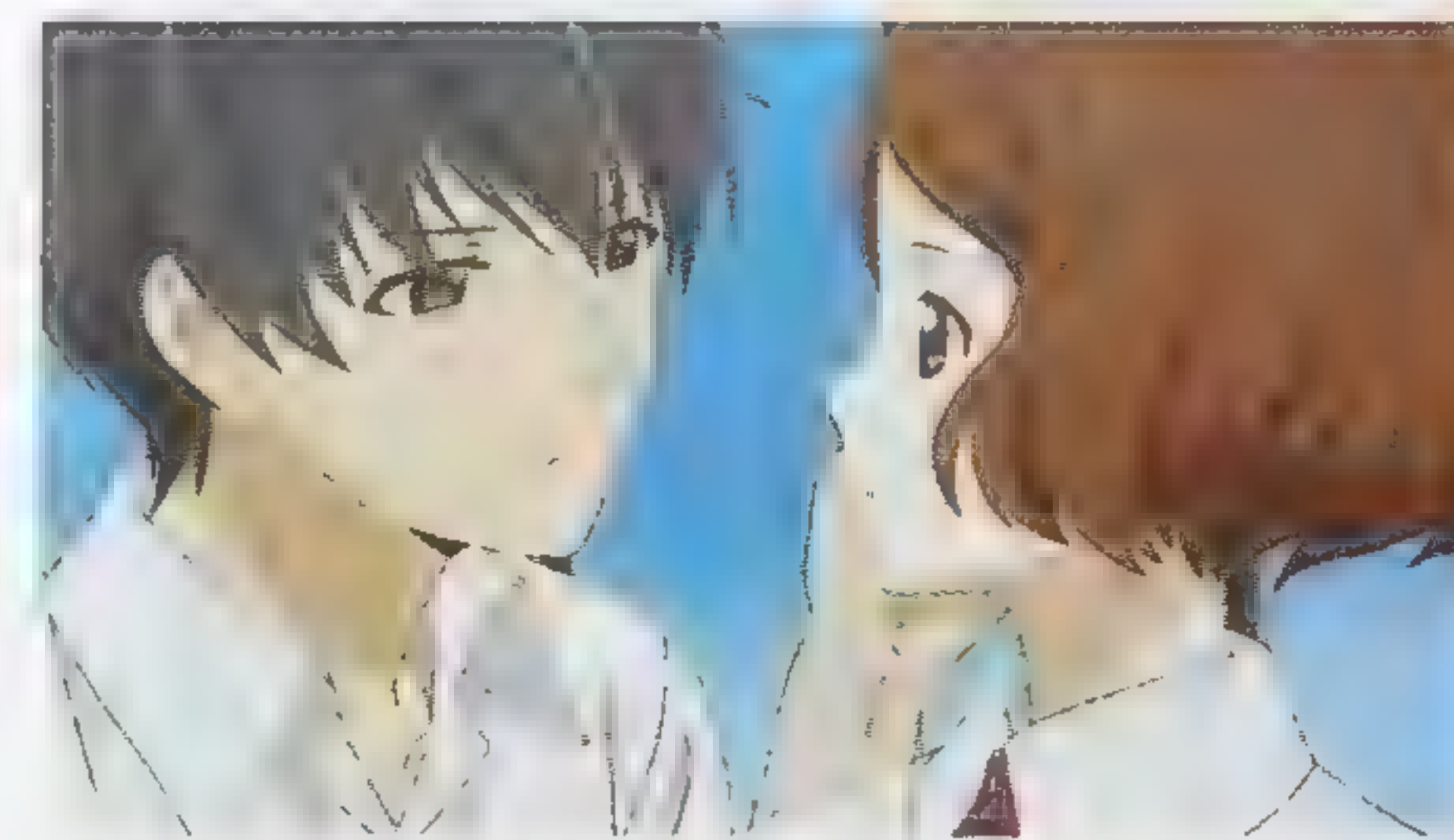
Sin
七つの大罪



SAKURADA RESET

by James

An idyllic, laid-back island town isn't a place you might want to live in. While it's definitely peaceful, not much happens in it. It feels like the same day every day. There's one anime town, however, where the "same day" feeling is an actual occurrence. So, why does this strange phenomenon happen? Find out in *Sakurada Reset*.



Sakurada Reset is about the eponymous town of **Sakurada**, a fictional island in Japan situated in the Pacific. Here, certain individuals are bestowed with supernatural powers, which they forget once they leave the island. For high school student **Kei Asai**, it's to remember the past. It may not seem like a big deal, but it did eventually serve a purpose when **Misora Haruki**, Kei's classmate, started using her powers, which is to rewind time back to three days ago. This leaves everybody not knowing that they've been in a seemingly never-ending loop that's caused by just one person. Except for a few, including Kei. With this, Kei sees an opportunity to pair up with Misora and use her powers to help out others. Thus begins the two's personal quest, which raises them many questions as they pursue it.

The show, to say the least, has so much potential. First, it captured the feel of an idyllic island life perfectly. The rest of the elements, however, either fail to stand out, or are misses. The characters, while not ugly-looking, don't have unique designs, and are quite inexpressive. While that may be a voice actor problem – although unlikely, considering that it's **Kana Hanazawa** as Misora Haruki – it's undeniable that it does reflect on the characters. Badly. Lastly, the plot moves quite slowly, which is, for worse, contrasted by the show's bad habit of dumping seemingly endless expositions.

Sakurada Reset could've been a hidden gem. Instead, it becomes one of those stereotypically confusing and therefore quickly forgotten high school anime. Still, *Sakurada Reset* is not without merits. So if you don't have a lot of anime to watch, this one should be good enough, at the very least.

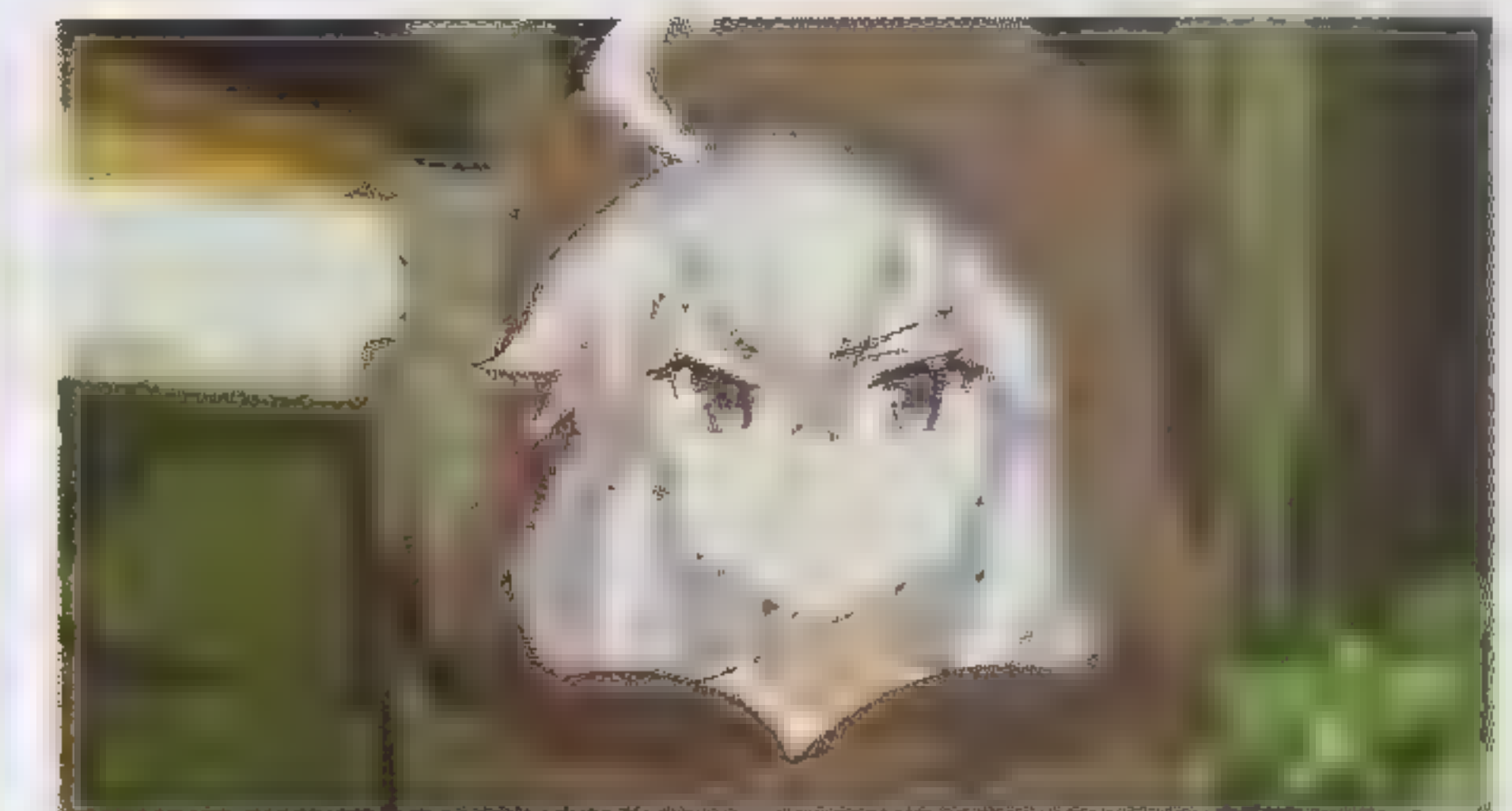


STARTING THE MAGICAL BOOK FROM ZERO

by Reikisha

Zero Kara Hajimeru Mahou no Sho

Zero Kara Hajimeru Mahou no Sho (Grimoire of Zero) is a fantasy anime series produced by **Lantis** and adapted by **White Fox** studios. The anime is based from the on-going light novel series illustrated by **Yoshinori Shizuma** and written by **Kakeru Kobashiri**. It's scheduled to run for 12 episodes from April 10 to June 26, 2017.



Mahou no Sho is like your typical medieval fantasy stories, except that you're following a beastfallen mercenary and a witch as his employer. Both the mercenary and Zero are likeable characters even though witches and beastfallen in general are portrayed as evil in the anime. The slow pacing during its first three episodes was understandable because those episodes served as introduction for the main characters. But as the narrative progresses, the story becomes even darker.

It's amazing that White Fox was able to make the anime adaptation look decent compared to the studio's past adaptations with higher animation quality. Thankfully, the background music compliments the mood the show tries to show. Not to mention, the every character interaction is so compelling that the viewers can't help but crack a smile during certain scenes.

Zero Kara Hajimeru Mahou no Sho should not be mistaken as the sequel or prequel to Re:Zero even though their titles are slightly similar. Still, if you like magical fantasy with darker themes, then you should consider watching it this season.



PROBLEM PRINCES

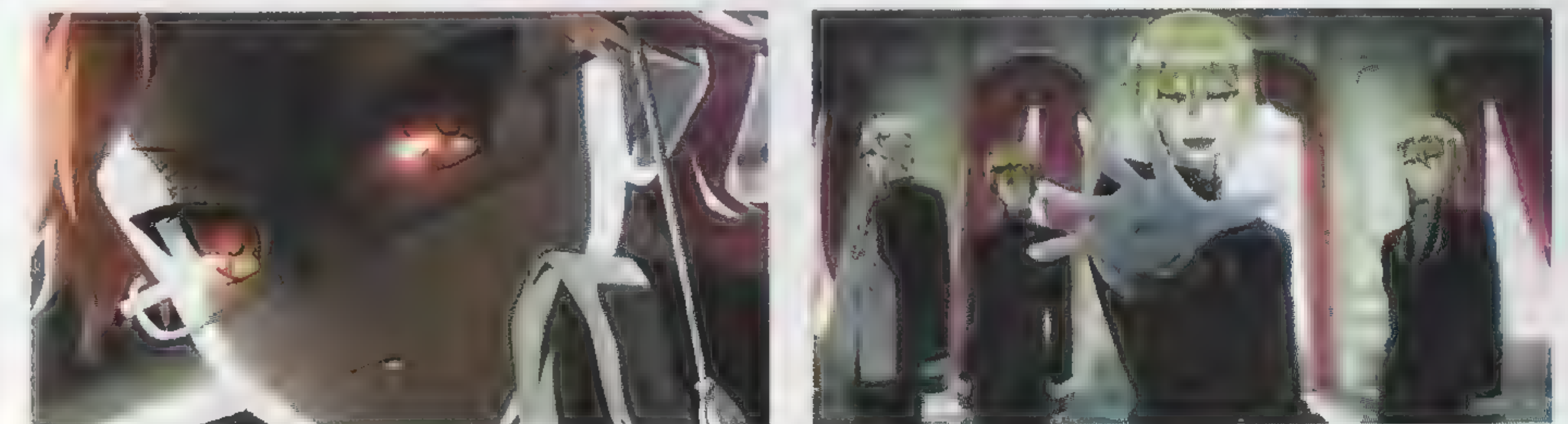
by Reikisha

Oushitsu Kyoushi Haine

The **Grannzreich** kingdom is the home to its benevolent king and his four young princes. For the sake of the kingdom's future, they must be given the highest education possible befitting a royalty who will someday inherit the throne. However, there is a huge problem...

All of the princes' royal tutors either gave up on them or was dismissed due to the four princes' unbearable personalities. With that in mind, the king of Grannzreich summoned **Heine Wittgenstein** as the new royal tutor for his children. Will Heine be able to make the young princes appreciate him as their royal tutor and teach them what really makes a prince?

The Royal Tutor (Oushitsu Kyoushi Haine) is an on-going comedy anime series produced by **Square Enix**, **DAX production**, and **Avex Pictures** and adapted by **Bridge studios**. The original material is an on-going shoujo manga series created by **Higasa Akai** since November 18, 2013.



This is one of the shows that instantly gives off a shounen-ai vibe at first glance since majority of its casts are men. Because of that, most male anime viewers who are looking for a new show to watch will immediately avoid it. Thankfully, there are no such scenes in this series, so it's perfectly safe for non-fudanshis to watch!

The Royal Tutor contains lighthearted comedy with serious life advices along the way. Heine is definitely a compelling character among the cast due to his amazing intellect and patience. The four princes, on the other hand, may be annoying at first, but it's hard to hate them once the viewer discovers that all four of them have child-like insecurities that comes with being a part of the royal family.

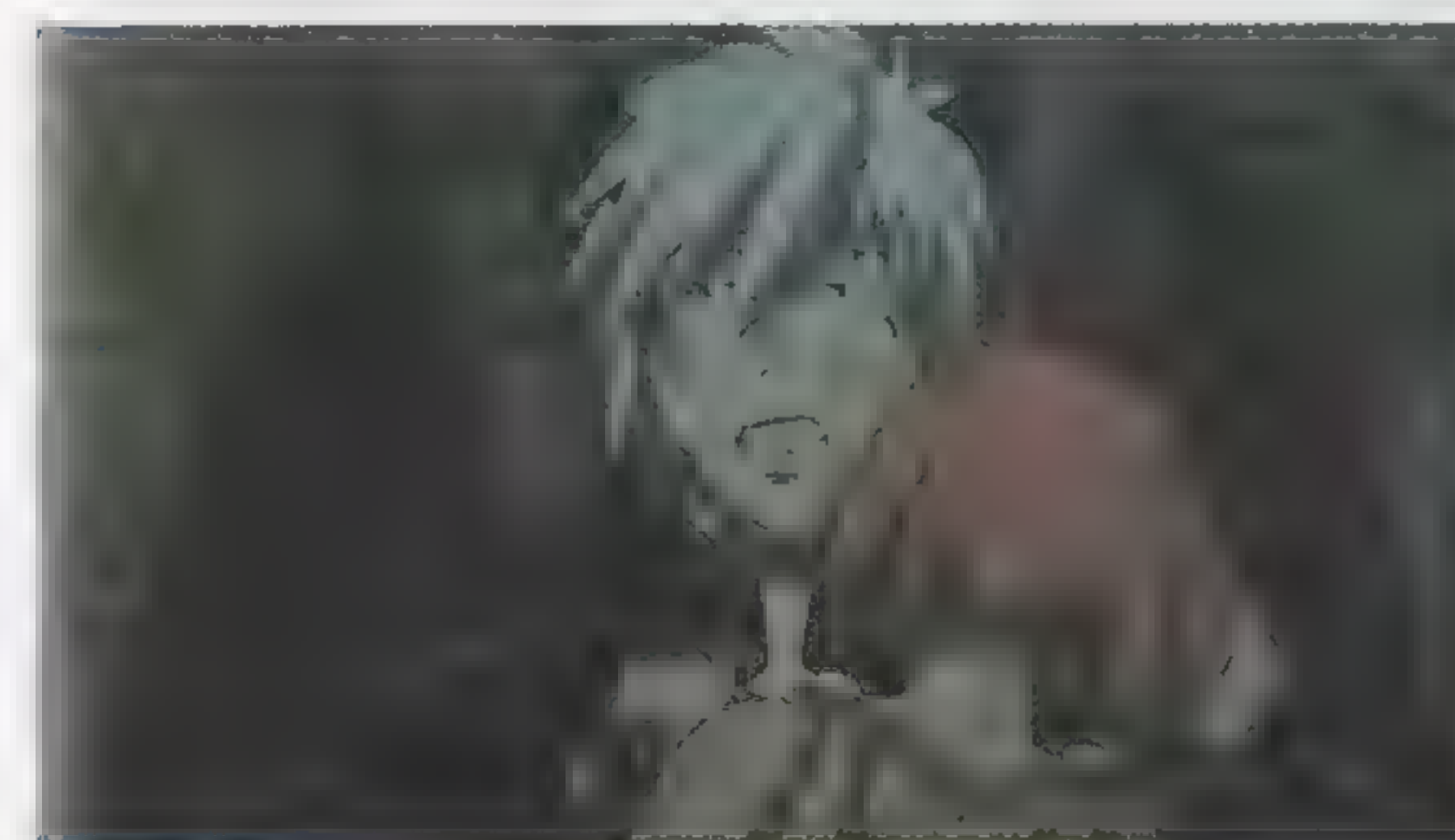
While there is no actual story progression in this anime, the character development between Heine and the princes is so interesting that makes you want to continue watching the series until the end.



SHINGEKI NO BAHAMUT: VIRGIN SOUL

by Reikisha

Shingeki no Bahamut: Virgin Soul is an anime adaptation of a social collectible card game created by Cygames and sequel to **Shingeki no Bahamut: Genesis**. The series is produced by **Cygames** and adapted by **MAPPA** studios. It's scheduled to have a total of 24 episodes starting from April 8 to September 23, 2017.

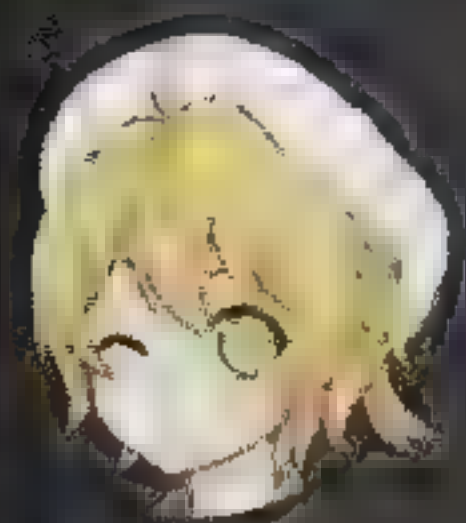


The main focus of the story this time is conflict between the humans, demons, and the celestials and their own ideas of justice. As you watch *Virgin Soul*, you'll find it hard to completely agree with a character that belongs to any of the three races since their actions are within the gray area of the moral compass. In addition, the series uses the opportunity to flesh out the world of *Shingeki no Bahamut* with elements of suspense, drama, and romance.

All characters from *Genesis* aside from Favaro and Amira makes a return while introducing a brand new character named Nina Drango. Nina is a main heroine who also serves as the audience's fourth perspective. She is a happy-go-lucky girl with naïve views when it comes to the conflict between humans, demons, and celestials.

MAPPA studios was able to retain the same quality animation they used for *Genesis* back in 2014, especially when accompanied by a couple of tracks that perfectly set the mood of its scenes.

People who have watched *Genesis* before missed Favaro so bad that they want him back in *Virgin Soul*. With that said, it is highly recommended that you watch *Genesis* first if you haven't seen it yet. Then you will understand why Favaro is such a great character in *Shingeki no Bahamut*.



MOVIE REEL

by Mikelle

Demon Lords are figures that are considered as the greatest enemy and act as the last boss of most heroic stories. They hold extreme destructive powers and command an uncountable hoard of demons as they wreak havoc and despair upon the world. Yet here we have a certain demon lord candidate that does nothing everyday but study in a magic school and is always surrounded by his harem.

TRINITY SEVEN

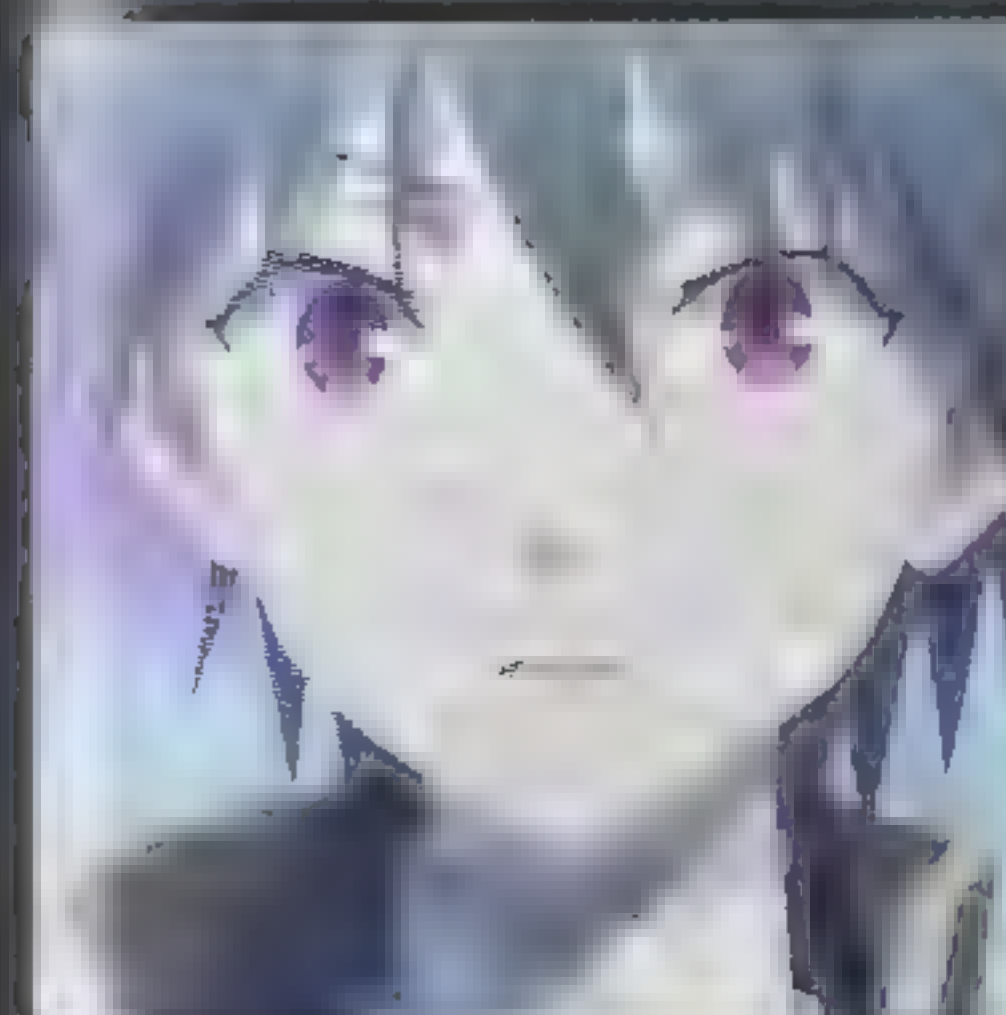
ETERNAL LIBRARY AND ALCHEMIC GIRL

The story continues as a new threat called the **White Demon Lord** awakens from his slumber within the forbidden **Eternal Library**. The White Demon Lord turns to vanquish **Arata** along with the **Trinity Seven**, the school's seven most powerful mages, in order to emphasize and reestablish his position of Demon Lord. Now Arata and the gang must surpass the new threat along with new allies and a new power.

Trinity Seven: Eternal Library and Alchemic Girl is the direct movie sequel of the Trinity Seven anime. Three years after the series ended back in 2014, the movie was released on February 2017 by **Seven Arcs Pictures** and **Avex Pictures**. The series is based on the Trinity Seven manga by **Nao Akinari** and **Kenji Saito** which is currently serialized by **Dragon Age** with a total of 15 volumes and is still ongoing. An OVA episode was also released along with a light novel spinoff which is also written and illustrated by the same authors. The movie's theme song is **Last Proof** by **TECHNOBOYS PULCRAFT GREEN-FUND**.

The movie is a great thirst quencher for fans who watched the series and are currently awaiting the chance for a second season. It features all of the main characters along with a new adversary that threatens their world. Though the movie is more on the short side, it still shows the same old gang along with some fan service and great battle scenes. The movie also ended with a foreshadowing with the introduction of new characters and a potential for a 2nd season.

Pride, Envy, Wrath, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony and Lust. In order to retake his world, the demon lord decides to take control over these seven sins. Follow the Trinity Seven and find out how the individual that was supposed to destroy the world, saves it.



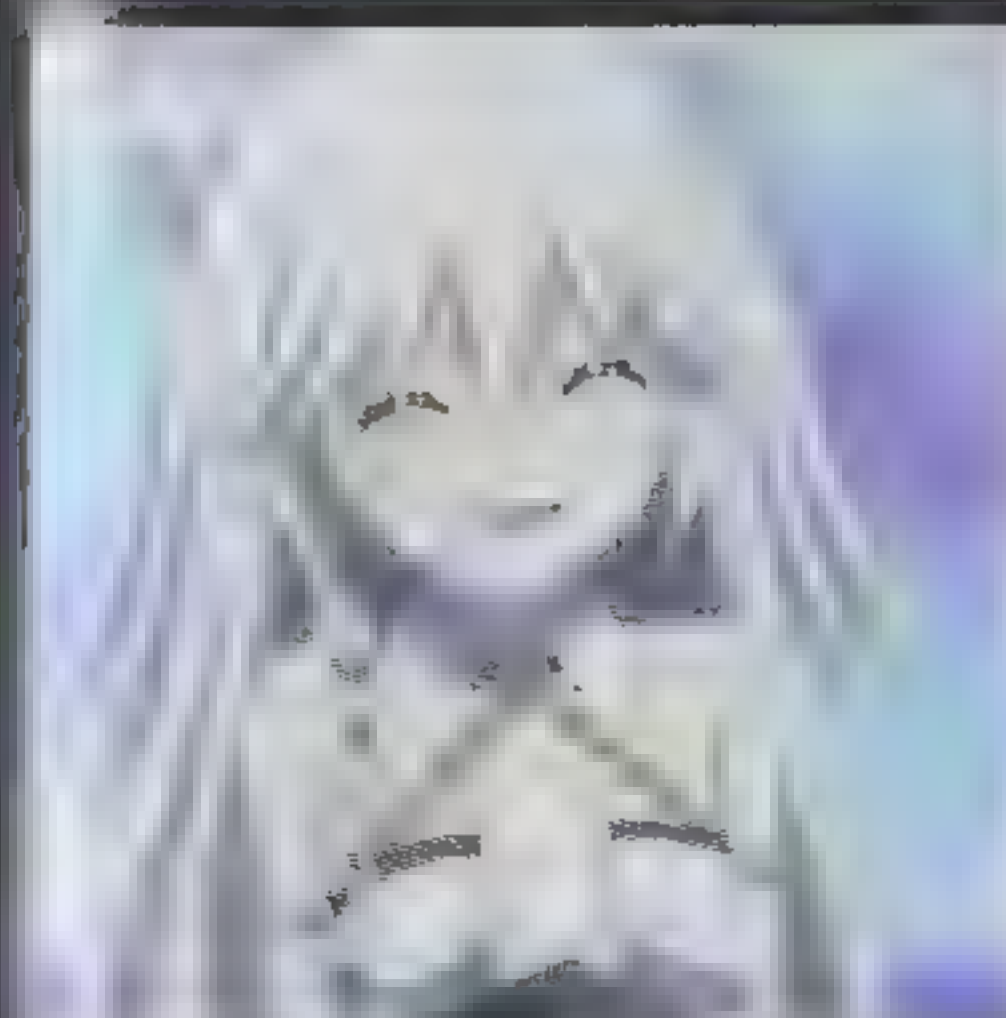
Kasuga Arata

The Magic King of the Superbia archive and Demon Lord Candidate return with his usual antics as the main protagonist. Arata decided to oppose the White Demon Lord who threatens him and the girls with overwhelming power. Supported by his friends and new allies, Arata will do everything in order to save those he wants to protect.



Asami Lilith

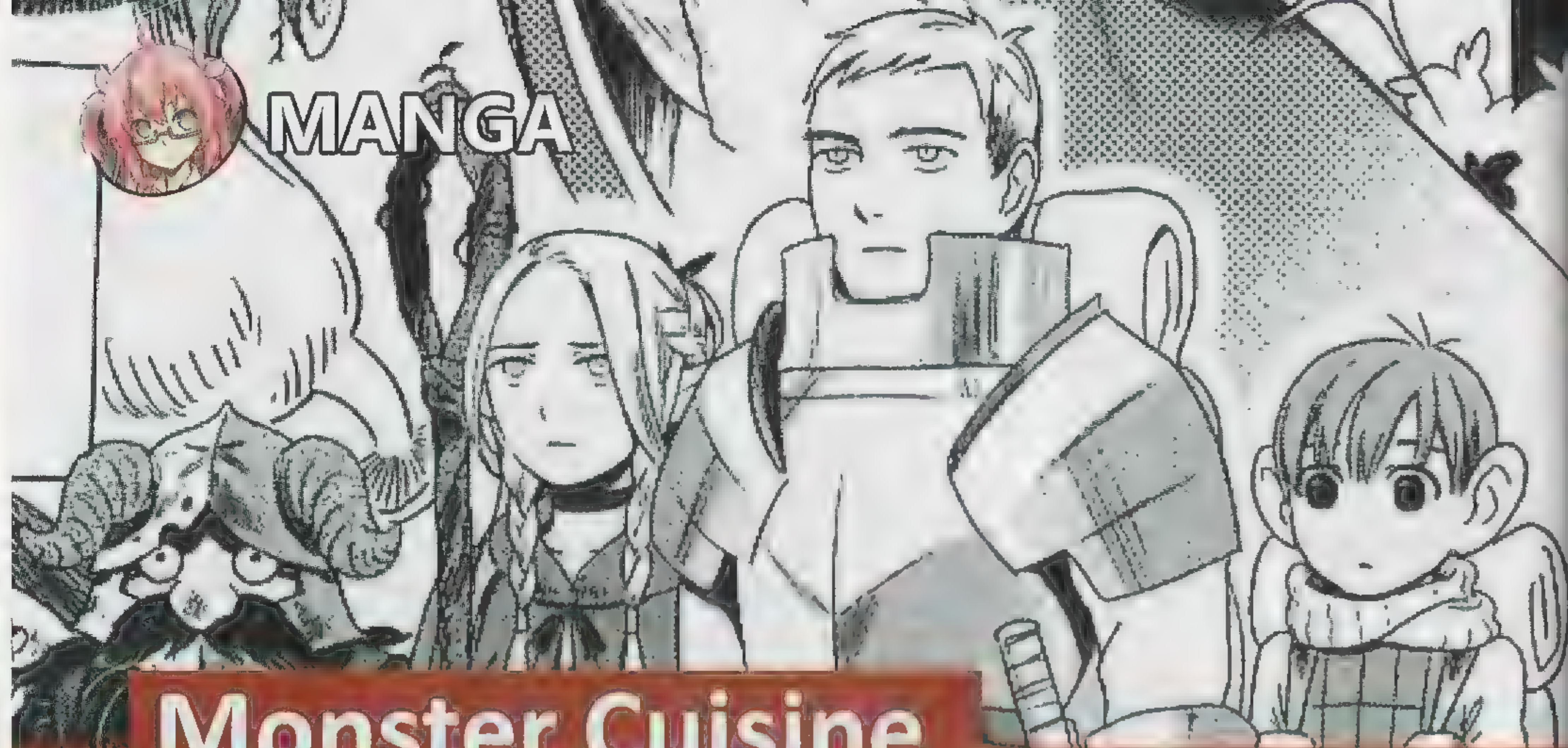
Lilith is one of the Trinity Seven of the Luxuria archive and is also one of the instructors at the Royal Biblia Academy despite being the same age as the other characters. She owns the **Hermes Apocrypha** which stores all of her spells and research that allows her to use **Outer Alchemic**. She aids Arata with his fight against the White Demon Lord.



Lilim

The movie introduces a new character called Lilim who is actually Lilith's grimoire called **Hermes Apocrypha**. She took on a human form after Arata accidentally touches the book which absorbed most of his mana. She considers Arata and Lilith as her parents and calls them as such. She holds both Arata's and Lilith's powers within her.

MANGA



Monster Cuisine DUNGEON MESHI

by Elaine

While fighting the red dragon in the lower level of a dungeon, **Laios** and his team was flat out defeated knocking everyone out. Luckily, a magic spell was casted at the last moment which sent them instantly out of the dungeon, except for Laios' sister. Apparently, before the magic spell, his sister tried to save him and got devoured by the dragon instead. Those inside the dragon's belly cannot be included in the spell.

Laios, together with **Marcille** and **Chilchack**, decided to go back to the dungeon to save his sister before the dragon digests her. However, having no money to spend for equipments or foods, they just agreed on (and maybe forced Marcille) just eating the monsters in the dungeon to survive. In the middle of it, they met **Senshi**, a dwarf who has devoted 10 years of his life to studying how to cook monsters in dungeons, and joined their party. And so their adventure of cooking different recipes of monsters starts!

Kui Ryoko is known to create comedy, fantasy manga since 2011. She has a total of five different series and **Dungeon Meshi**, which started in 2014, is her latest and remaining ongoing work with currently four volumes. It is published by **Enterbrain** and serialized in **Harta**. This series was also nominated for the 9th Manga Taisho Award in 2016.

Despite being an RPG-themed manga, it actually lies more on the food and cuisine side. It is rare since mostly fighting and some more serious stuff might have been the expectation for this kind of manga, but that's what makes it light and fun to read. The art is simple but distinctive, and the jokes are also funny and at the right timing. Isn't it amazing that they were supposed to be saving Laios' sister but they're going about cooking monsters on their way? This will surely make a worthwhile anime adaptation in the future.

Mainstream delicacies but with monsters as ingredients? Indulge!



Let Me Be Heard NAMI YO KIITE KURE

by Elaine

Break ups are more difficult when you're at late twenties. You already spent a lot of time for it only to waste everything down, and the worst part is how and for how long will you ever find a new relationship that you hopefully wish to be the last one?

Koda Minare was all depressed after being dumped by his last boyfriend. She took it all out by drinking one night in a bar until she is wasted. There she met the old guy **Matou** who is a director of a famous radio station. Drunk as she is, Minare made a massive rant



about his heartbreak all night. She thought her troubles would be over after that, but not until she heard her own voice in an impromptu damage control live broadcast the next day! She hurried to the station, super angry at **Mutou** thinking it is illegal to record someone's voice without permission. But yeah, she was really drunk for she also happened to signed an agreement that same night with **Mutou** that he can use her voice for the recording. Due to this abrupt situation, she is now invited to work at the radio station.

Written by **Samura Hiroaki**, **Nami yo Kiite Kure** (Waves, Listen to Me) is an ongoing manga series published by **Kodansha** and serialized in the **Afternoon** magazine. This series started in 2014 and has currently three volumes. In 2016, this manga was also nominated for the 9th Manga Taisho Award.

Given the setting of the story, it targets readers of age 20 and above since they are the ones who can relate to this kind of genre most. The problems encountered by the protagonists and how they handled it are very mature, and there's a chance that not everyone in the target age bracket would be able to empathize. However, if you truly try to understand, you would love how strong the characters are and how realistic their situations could be.

What happened to Minare is impactful, and somehow will make a great change in her life. Would this change be a positive or negative one?





Not Orphanage but Farm of Kids!?

YAKUSOKU NO NEVERLAND

by Elaine

Since they were born, **Emma** and her other around 30 other siblings are being taken care of by their beloved **Mama**. They are not related by blood, but they love each other dearly. Everyday is fun for everyone, and they have just one important rule to obey: they are not allowed to go past the gates and wall of their orphanage. They didn't mind it though. For the kids, it's just a trivial thing for everything they want and need are around them. A large forest where day can play all day freely is even within their area. Everything is peaceful and sound, until that fateful day.

One of their siblings, **Conny**, has finally been arranged to leave the orphanage to live at the outside world with her foster parents. At the night of her departure though, Emma, Roman and Ray noticed that Conny left her favorite toy behind. Concerned, Emma and Roman decided to sneak out to deliver the toy to her while she is still at the gates. It was that moment that changed their lives. What welcomed them in the gates is the corpse of their dear friend, and there they found out that all these time they are merely goods, raised by their trusted mother, who will eventually ship them out to monsters and demons as nothing but foods.



One of the new masterpieces of Weekly Shounen Jump, **Yakusoku no Neverland** (The Promised Neverland) is an ongoing manga series written by **Shirai Kaiu** and illustrated by **Demizu Posuka**. It has currently three volumes which just started being published in 2016.

This one is certainly worthwhile of your time to read and to wait on weekly for new updates. Reading the pilot chapter, you would feel it's a bit cliched and thought maybe this is another fluffy story seeing how there are little kids as protagonists. However, it also turned dark fast in that same chapter. Up to the latest issues, lots of twists and surprising revelations are waiting for the readers. It is certainly amusing to spectate the mind war between the kids and their **Mama** that surely will not bore anyone. It is enticing for your own thinking and you can't help but form your own theories.

They're merely animals being nurtured in a farm until they are ripe. Will they be able to escape this terrifying fate of theirs?

Flames Amidst the Snow

FIRE PUNCH

by Elaine

It is not the world they used to know anymore. Due to the power of the "Ice Witch", the world turned into a permanent winter state. And more than the whiteness of snow all over, there is starvation, suffering, and madness now experienced by the people.

Naturally, freezing people will seek for warmth and comfort brought by fire. However, it is something not easily available anymore in the world. This 'blessing' of fire is bestowed only upon a chosen person, **Agni**, and now the people go leaps and bounds to obtain this for themselves.

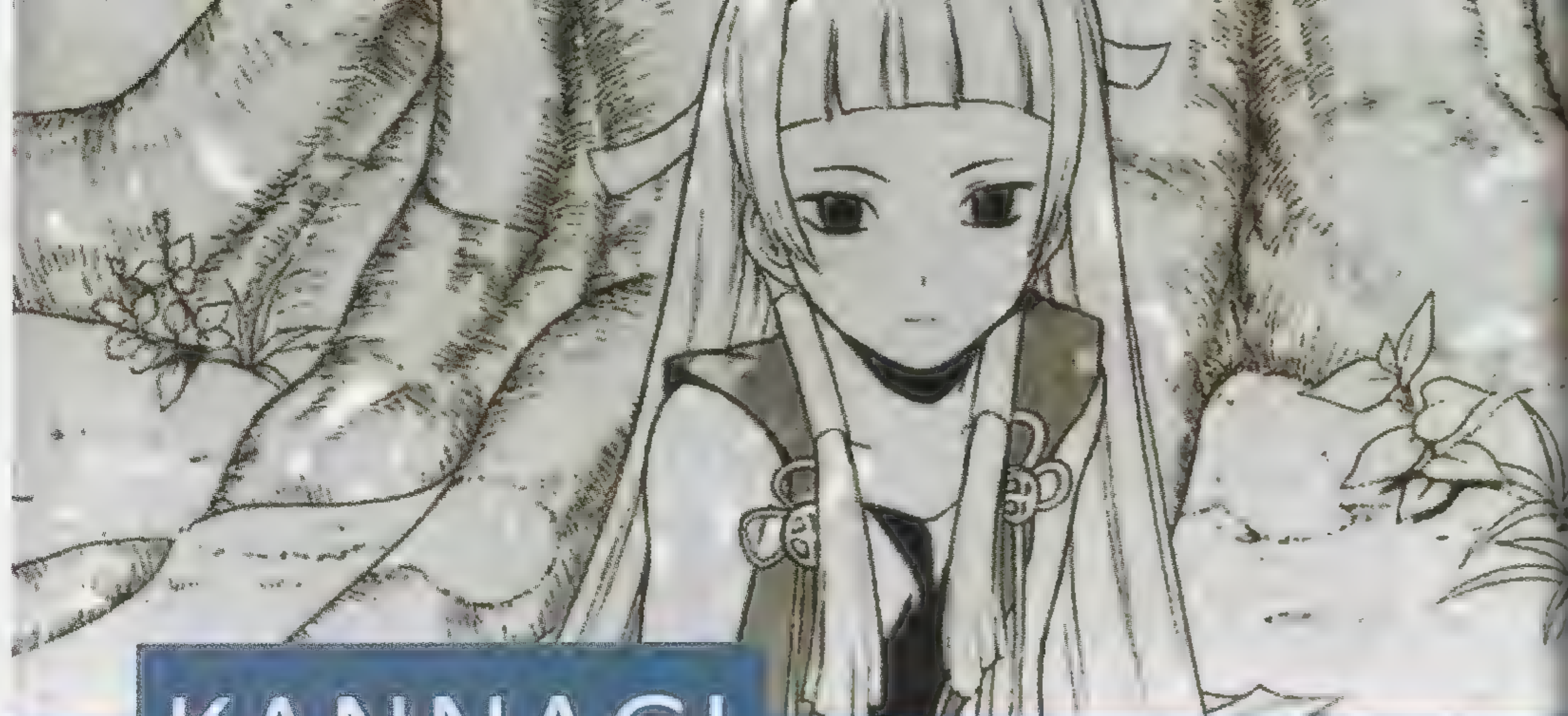


Created by **Fujimoto Tatsuki**, Fire Punch is a new series published by **Shueisha** and serialized in **Shounen Jump +**. It was released only last year 2016 and now has currently four volumes. This series is categorized as an action, mature, mystery, and supernatural story.

There is no best way to describe the nature of the storyline of this series. Saying it's peculiar is not nearly enough. The setting is too dark and might be hard to understand for most readers. It is the type of story which can get equal amounts of fans and haters, but that's what makes it interesting, right? The art is a bit more realistic than usual, and has actually little restraints in including gore scenes.

Agnis' blessing within him: is it hope or curse?





KANNAGI

by James

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree, so goes a poem. Well, he's wrong. Trees are not poems; they're trees. Not all trees, however, are either poems or trees. One is a goddess, and a lovely one at that. It may be hard to believe, but maybe Kannagi will make you.

Kannagi, drawn and written by **Eri Takenashi**, is about **Jin**, a boy who carved a goddess statue out of a tree. After doing so, he mysteriously finds a girl sleeping in his home. Later on, he finds out that she's no ordinary girl; she's **Nagi**, a guardian deity, and she appeared to Jin because the wood he carved is from a sacred tree. It's not just any sacred tree: it's Nagi's, and it's been cut down because of an upcoming land development project. Furious, confused, and with nowhere to go, she has no choice but to live with Jin. Thus begins their own boy-girl cohabitation story, with a considerable amount of references to Japanese religion and tradition thrown in the lot.

The manga is by no means new premise-wise. Guy meets goddess, goddess lives with him, they fall in love, guy gets entangled in the affairs of divinities – Ah! My Goddess definitely comes to mind. **Kannagi**, however, is by no means a complete rip either, as it's more rooted in Japanese mythology, has love for nature as one of its themes, and there's a lot less ecchi going on – perfect if you're someone distracted by the stuff.

If you got a taste for the familiar, sweet, and simple, **Kannagi** is a good manga to read. With such charms, it shouldn't be hard to go leafing over this title.



SEKIREI

by James

A hero fighting for love – you've seen that before. A heroine fighting her love – not exactly as common as the former, but not exactly rare anymore either. 100 extraterrestrial super-powered human-like beings, fighting for their love in a battle royale? Peculiar, unique, and definitely interesting. It's no other than **Sekirei**.

Drawn and written by **Gokurakuin Sakurako**, **Sekirei** is centered on **Minato Sahashi**, a teenager who has failed his college entrance exams twice. His luck, however, turns around when he meets **Musubi**, a beautiful girl who literally just falls out of the sky. Musubi may be a woman, but she's no human – she's a **Sekirei**, an human-like alien with supernatural powers.



Sekirei are meant to seek out **Ashikabi**, gifted human beings who have the ability to unlock a **Sekirei**'s true potential. This is so that they can take part in this big free-for-all against the **Sekirei** of other **Ashikabi**. And in this fight that defines the **Sekirei**'s very existence, the **Ashikabi** of the sole and ultimate winner will be granted untold power, and any defeated **Sekirei** will be cut off from her (or his, as there are also male **Sekirei**) **Ashikabi**. Surely, the latter is a tragedy, as the two are drawn to each other by a powerful force: love.

Now, will Musubi, Minato, and his other **Sekirei** (yes, they can have more than one) live happily ever after as the most powerful harem on this side of the universe, or will his awful luck kick in once again? You're going to have read this manga. Seriously, you should, as its battle scenes are as good as *Shonen Jump*'s top-ranks, a simple yet compelling plot and premise, and quality male-oriented fanservice that you'd be hard-pressed to think that the mangaka behind this mains in the yaoi genre. Undoubtedly, **Sekirei** is a pleasure, guilty or otherwise.

High-octane fights, sexy women, and the power of love – it's everything everyone with simple yet fine tastes could ever want.





CHIHAYAFURU

by James

It's natural for trading card games like Yu-Gi-Oh and Duel Masters to have a manga about them. After all, they're very much rooted in Japanese geek culture. But what about karuta, a Japanese traditional card-matching game? Part literature and part playing cards, they're a part of Japanese culture, and have been popular since the 17th century. Such a shame there's no about that, right? Well, actually, there is, and its title is as much of a mouthful as the game it's based on. It's Chihayafuru.

Drawn and written by **Yuki Suetsugu**, **Chihayafuru** is about **Chihaya Ayase**, a boyish girl whose dream is to see her sister be Japan's best model. This dream, however, is challenged after befriending **Arata Wataya**, a withdrawn outcast boy in class who shows her his dream: to become the best karuta player in the world.

Karuta is a traditional card game that contains a poem that is split in the 100 reading cards in a set. The cards are divided into two: reading cards and playing cards. The reciter reads the 50 reading cards, while the two competitors, who both sit on their knees, will randomly select up to 25 cards from the playing cards at random, place these cards in front of them, and remove from play the card that matches what the reciter is reading. The first player to remove all of the cards in front of him/her from play is considered as the winner.

After playing karuta on behalf of Wataya, Chihaya realizes what her dream is. Like what her friend Wataya said, a dream is for yourself, not for someone else. Chihaya's dream is no longer for her sister to be the best model in Japan; now, it's for her to become the best karuta player in Japan. And with this new dream comenew perspectives, new hopes, and a new life.

Chihayafuru is one beautiful and inspiring manga. So even if you're not big on Japanese traditional culture, as long as you're big on hopes and dreams and you need something to lift you up, this manga is a must.



P TO JK

by James

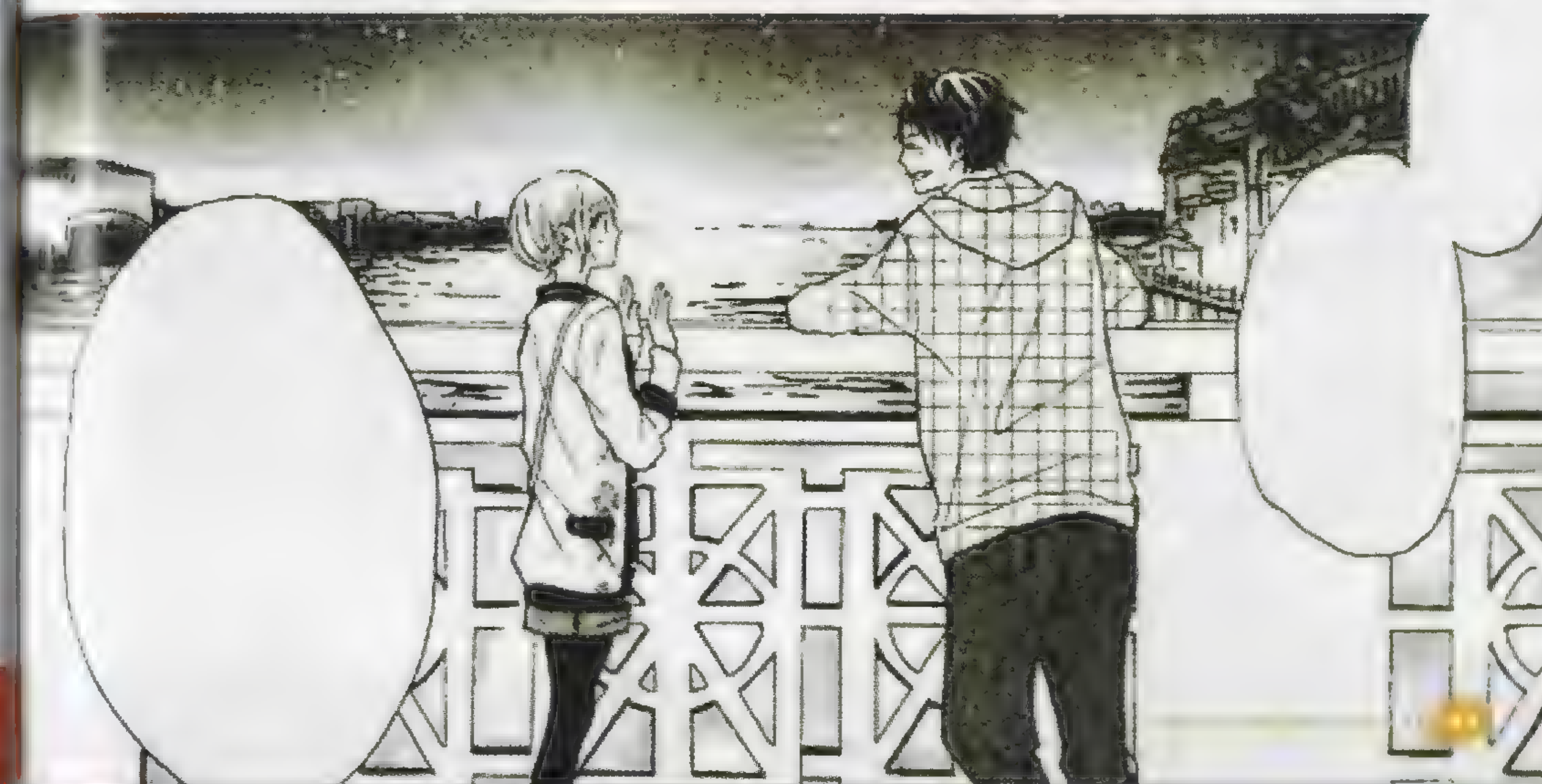
If you're an adult, hitting on a high-schooler is all sorts of wrong. At the same time, it's not right for underage girls to be playing with adults either. A young adult and a minor in a manga, however, is a completely different case – it's all sorts of cute. Not convinced? Check out P to JK.

The manga, which is written and drawn by **Maki Kiyoshi**, is about **Kako**, a 16-year old high-schooler who decided to join a mixer for the heck of it. There she met **Kouta**, a 22-year old guy. The two hit it off quite nicely and quickly, but the budding romance dies down when Kouta discovers Kako's age, leaving our heroine disheartened. The following day, Kako and Kouta meet by coincidence; turns out he's a police officer. At first



Kouta pretends to be a good policeman, pretending not to know Kako, until Kako gets attacked by a pervert. Thankfully, Officer Kouta was there to save her. This restarts the two's very minor May-December romance.

With its cutesy story and art style, as well as a slice-of-life dimension that is not only about love but also about being an adult and doing one's duties, P to JK is a sweet, simple, yet good read.





GOLDEN KAMUY

by Mike

Set in the harsh lands of Hokkaido, **Saichi Sugimoto** is a survivor of the Russo-Japanese war during the Meiji era and was given the title of "**Immortal Sugimoto**". Both allies and enemies alike feared him for his savage fighting style and unending vitality on the battlefield. Sugimoto later hears the story about the hidden **Ainu** gold and ventures forth in search of the treasure along with an Ainu girl called **Asirpa**. Together they traverse the extreme landscapes of Hokkaido while eliminating all the adversities along the way.

Golden Kamuy is a seinen, historical and adventure Japanese manga series drawn and written by **Satoru Noda**. It began serialization in **Shueisha's Weekly Young Jump** back in August 2014 and won the **9th Manga Taisho** award.

The art is quite beautiful and paired with realistic background which captures Hokkaido's breathtaking landscapes. The characters themselves are very unique and carry a tinge of craziness in them that helps bring flavor to the impressive story.

Aside from winning the 9th Taisho award, **Golden Kamuy** was also nominated for the **20th Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize** and the **40th Kodansha Manga Award**. In 2016, Viz media also announced and shortly begun licensing the manga at the New York Comic Con.

Golden Kamuy is a must for history buffs and treasure seeking fans. It is a hidden gem that needs more recognition that would definitely pique your interest. The main character is so badass that no amount of explanation could describe just how great this series is. You surely won't regret following this series and would later realize its true worth.



AHIRU NO SORA

by Mikelle

Sports manga can be divided into three different categories, mainstream titles which became trademarks in the industry, those titles that existed but never made it big, and diamond in the roughs that are just waiting to be discovered. **Ahiru no Sora** is somewhat all of the above.

Kurumatani Sora is just your average looking transfer student who looks short and wimpy but has a big attitude. Sora made a promise to his mother that he would dominate his very first high school tournament. Much to his surprise, the school he transferred to, **Kuzuryu High School's** boys basketball club is actually a lair full of misfits and delinquents. Brandishing his

passion for the sport, Sora begins to influence and inspire those around him; and thus a story of dreams and rivalry starts anew.

Ahiru no Sora is a basketball manga written and drawn by **Hinata Takeshi** which is being serialized in **Kodansha's Weekly Shounen Magazine**. The series was first released on May of 2004 and is currently at its 47th volumes as of March 2017. **Ahiru no Sora** has gathered quite a number of awards throughout the years and was actually acclaimed to be the second coming of **Slam Dunk**.

The art starts off with an old school vibe which is akin to the classic sports manga during its time and slowly shows a subtle evolution after each volume. The story and character's development is also slow paced much alike other long running sports manga but the plot twist and life lessons packs quite a punch. You're in luck if you are looking for something to occupy you for upcoming rainy season. **Ahiru no Sora** would keep you busy and thirsting for the next chapter after your start reading this hidden gem series.





GAMER'S ARENA

FULL HOUSE ROCK PARTY!

by Reikisha

BanG Dream!
バンドリ★

In Japan, mobile games are considered to be one of their strongest genres in the video game market. These types of games are for people who want to use their smartphones as a gaming platform aside from being their primary means of communication. While most games developed for android and iOS devices are meant to be played casually, there are a handful of games that force its players to go deep into mobage hell.

Dear Otafan, if you've played any of these games and still want to sink even deeper, then we have the perfect game for you to try out!

BanG Dream!: Girls Band Party is a free to play adventure rhythm game based from Bushiroad's new media franchise. The game was released on March 16, 2017 by Craft Egg and Bushimo for iOS and Android phones.



Bandori is separated into two game modes: **Story** and **Live**.

In story mode, the player can view the main story and band story in a visual novel format featuring Live2D models of the characters. The player unlocks a new chapter for the main story by simply ranking up. They can also unlock a new chapter for the band story everytime one of the bands rank up. After viewing a chapter, the player is rewarded with 50 stars and 1 sound crystal.



In live mode, the player chooses a song, difficulty, and performing members. They can also adjust the default speed before playing the song of their choice.

Gameplay-wise, Bandori is just like any other mobile rhythm game people play. However, there are important features that gives the game an identity of its own. On top of its solid gameplay, the overall visuals are attractive and the in-game soundtrack gives the player the chance to discover new songs. Bandori is a rock-centric game that leans more on the casual side, but hardcore players are also rewarded for their time and effort



FIRE EMBLEM
Heroes

RISE, HEROES WHO DEFY THE WORLD

Welcome to the World of Zenith, esteemed Summoner!

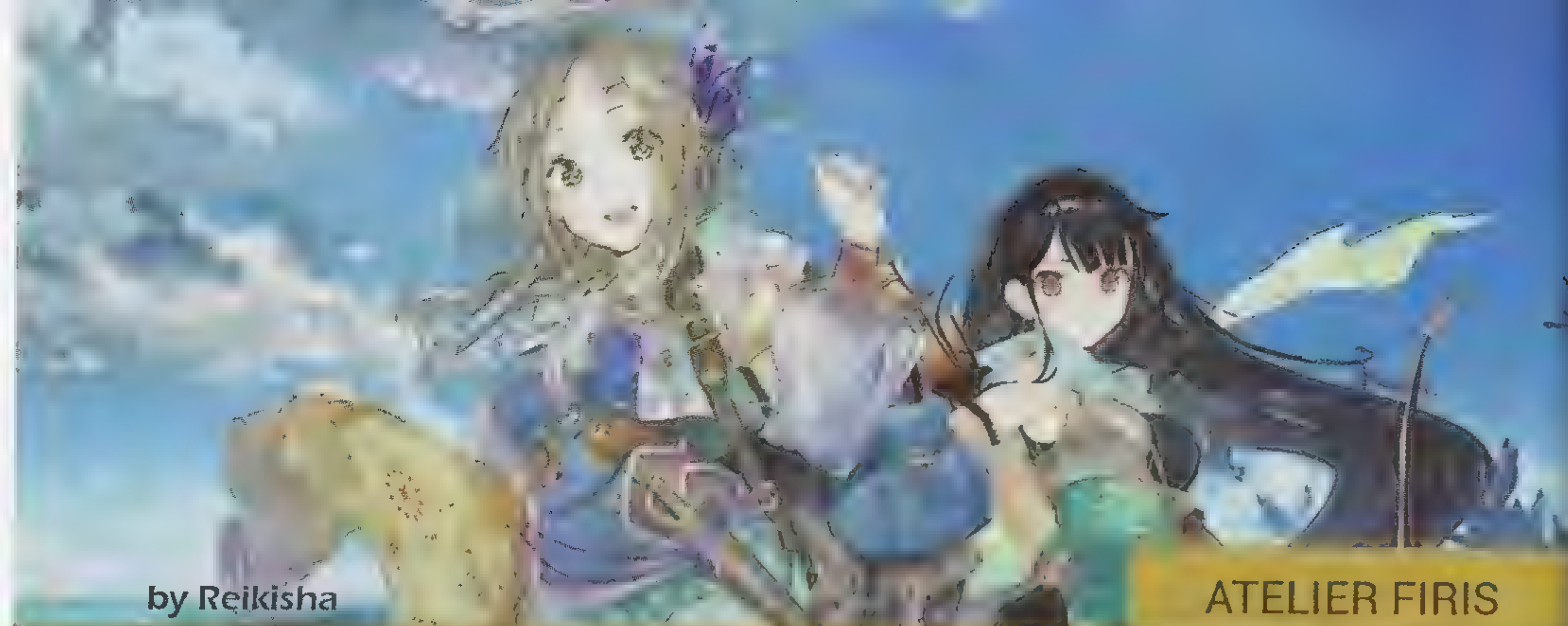
The **Kingdom of Askr** is being pushed to the brink of destruction by the **Emblian Empire** led by **Princess Veronica's** forces. You are tasked to assist the **Order of Heroes** in their mission to protect the Kingdom of Askr by calling forth legendary **Heroes** from various worlds and lead them to victory with your supreme tactical prowess. The fate of the Fire Emblem worlds now rests in your hands, esteemed Summoner.

Fire Emblem Heroes is a free-to-play tactical role playing game developed by **Intelligent Systems** and **Nintendo** for Android and iOS devices. The game was released worldwide on February 2, 2017.

Fire Emblem Heroes is a simplified version the traditional games in-order to be more conducive with the mobile format. Maps are now reduced to an 8x6 grid, a team consists of only 4 units, and there are only 4 unit types. The combat system still remains the same, except for the permadeath feature and the element of randomness in every map.



Fire Emblem Heroes is a fantastic game that was optimized for the mobile gaming platform without losing its core aspects. The game's selling point is the wide-ranging cast of heroes from 1990's **Shadow Dragon** and the **Blade of Light** to 2016's **Fates**. **Fire Emblem Heroes** is also a mobile game catered towards casual players in general since intensive grinding for EXP was never encouraged even in the traditional games.



by Reikisha

ATELIER FIRIS

SPECIAL: 2-IN-1 MYSTERIOUS ALCHEMY PACK

ATELIER SOPHIE



Gust is a Japanese game company known for annually releasing their Atelier games mainly for the PlayStation consoles since 1997. But outside of Japan, the first Atelier game release started in 2004 with Atelier Iris. Every Atelier game put its players into the shoes of an upstart alchemist striving to become good at their trade one day. Gamers worldwide really enjoyed the unique experience brought by this series and are looking forward to Gust's future releases since then.

This year, two of Gust's most recent Atelier games has been released by Steam for the first time in gaming history. Follow Sophie Neuenmuller and Firis Mistlud as they embark on an adventure to become the greatest alchemist of their time!

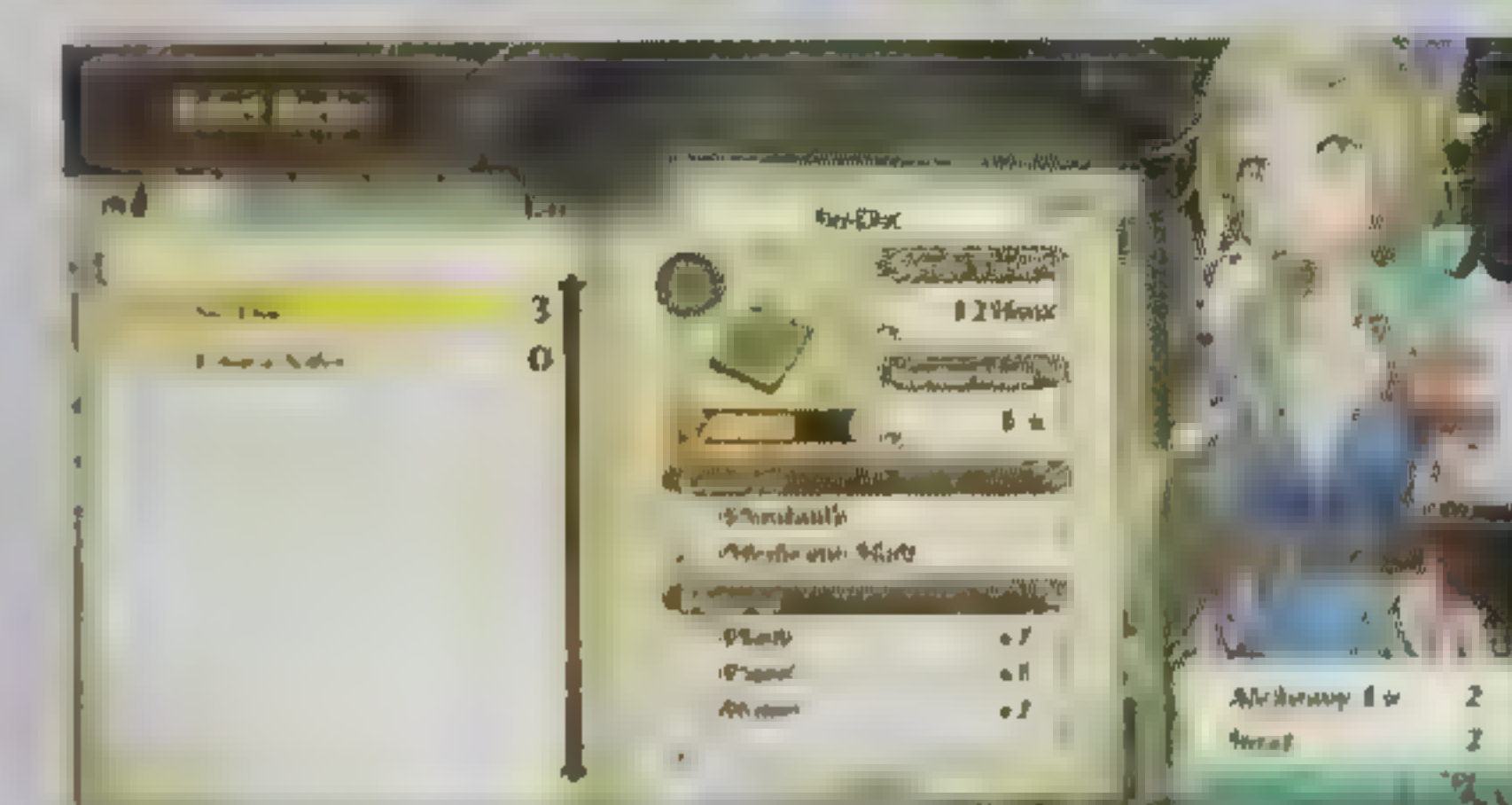
Atelier Sophie: The Alchemist and the Mysterious Book and **Atelier Firis: The Alchemist and the Mysterious Journey** are the latest installments of the Atelier series under the Mysterious sub-series. Both games are developed by **Gust Co. Ltd** and published by **Koei Tecmo**. Sophie and Firis were first released in Japan in 2015 and 2016 respectively for the mainline PlayStation consoles followed by a worldwide PC release this 2017.

GAMEPLAY

Atelier games in general is a mix of traditional JRPG and in-game alchemic research. The player will spend a huge portion of their time gathering for items and synthesizing them into a more useful product instead of grinding for EXP through turn-based combat. The player should also keep track of the game's ever-shifting time and weather cycle as it determines which monsters and items will be in a certain area.

In Atelier Sophie, the player must undergo a 4-step process in which they select a cauldron, apply ingredients, arrange patterns to receive bonuses, and then select which bonuses they intend to keep. During combat, a party member can select between "offensive" and "defensive" stances. The key to win enemy encounters is to have two or more allies selecting the same stance, as will trigger a powerful support action during a party member's turn.

Atelier Firis revamped the pattern arrangement mechanic from its predecessor's alchemy system and allows the player to use catalysts instead of cauldrons for more possible bonuses. Since the player will always be on the move for item gathering, they can make use of the portable atelier tent given to them by Sophie in order to synthesize items anywhere in the field as long as they place it near a campfire. Sub-weapons replaces the stance system from Atelier Sophie. During combat, each party member can equip up to two sub-weapons and take advantage of its skill effects and damage types. This way, the player will have more options as to how they should approach each enemy encounter.



As both **Atelier Sophie** and **Atelier Firis** were released on the PS4 and PC along with the PS3 and PS Vita, they are currently considered the best iterations of the Atelier series. An RPG that allows you to explore the world and learn new things rather than embarking on an adventure to slay the demon king is always a welcome change of pace.

If you never played an Atelier game before, then these two are the perfect games for you to start with!



BREAK OUT, PRISONERS OF FATE

by Reikisha

Persona 5 is a role-playing video game developed and published by Atlus (JP and NA) and Deep Silver (EU) for the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation 4. This game is chronologically the sixth installment in the Persona series—which is part of a major Shin Megami Tensei franchise. It was first released in Japan in September 2016, followed by a worldwide release in April 2017.

GAMEPLAY

Players takes on the role of a 16-year old transfer student who eventually awakens to become the leader of the rebellious Phantom Thieves of Hearts. Just like its predecessors, the player is given one year to live both as a student and a phantom thief in Tokyo. Igor and the Velvet Room makes a return in this series to help players create stronger Personas using the bonds they formed with their confidants as the story progresses. "Strengthening", "Net Fusion", and "Group Execution" are new Velvet Room features that gives the player more ways to raise a powerful Persona.



REVIEW

Its unique storyline, captivating visuals, innovative gameplay mechanics, and catchy soundtrack are the reasons why gamers worldwide instantly fell-in love with the Persona series. Persona 5 greatly improved the features that made the previous games amazing in the eyes of its fans, making it the strongest entry in the franchise as of now. However, there is one glaring problem that ruins the overall experience to some people. Since its release, Atlus imposed a streaming guideline as well as completely turning off the share function of the PlayStation 4 to ensure that no major spoilers will be posted online.

Even without the share function, you can still have a wonderful time reforming the unjust Japanese society as a Phantom Thief. With new Personas, new ways to achieve greater power, a sleeker and redefined approach in combat, colorful and relatable characters, and a gripping story that depicts the twistedness of today's society, Persona 5 is a must-play for series fans and newbies, and JRPG enthusiasts in general.



article and photos by kanddy

On a lovely day in Marikina, more than 4,000 individuals marched for love, acceptance and most importantly, PRIDE. The day was 24th of June, the pride month and the 23rd Manila Pride March was going on. There was music, colors, flags, banners brought by individuals who make up the LGBTQ+ community of the metro, our allies, family and friends.

The parade, first created in 1994, is the longest running Pride March in Southeast Asia. Created as a safe space to create, move and realize plans and policies, Metro Manila Pride shows no signs of stopping. The organization is made up of volunteers, non-partisan and not-for-profit groups.

"HERE TOGETHER" is this year's theme and rallying cry. Together we show the nation that our differences don't divide us.



I came with a date and we arrived in Marikina Plaza delos Alcaldes a little after lunch. The sky was looking gloomy but by the looks of things, the march will go on despite the weather. There were speeches, performances and the most awaited keynote speech that shook us all; Senator Risa Hontiveros dropped down some lines that many of us would not forget.

We march for Jennifer Laude who was murdered in a classic trans-panic excuse. We march for Jake Zyrus, ridiculed by many for his brave transition. We march for the kids who get bullied in school.

We march for those who can't.

Despite the Philippines being identified as a gay-friendly country, there



are still glaring discrimination happening in schools, office spaces and on the streets. The society, the government and the Church are only *tolerating* the LGBTQ+ rather than accepting and treating us like equals.

The march proper started at around 4PM with good weather. Soon, J. Chanyungco st. was filled with gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, queers, asexuals, intersexuals, allies, families and friends. Not to mention the protesters by the sidewalk equally armed with their megaphones, posters and hate messages. As we turned on Show Avenue, one of the busiest streets, onlookers, curious bystanders looked on.

It was a pleasant feeling where the Marikina people were smiling, shouting and (supposedly) supporting our cause and our march. Now on to the long walk along Sumulong Highway where cars



and motorists were stopped to let us pass proudly. Many individuals at the march were giving away condoms to promote safe sex! At the last street which was Mayor Gil Fernando Avenue, there was a small group of pastors with their signs that read, *"I used to be a Bible-banging homophobe. I'm Sorry. We're here to apologize for the ways that we as Christians have harmed the LGBT community."* Which we appreciate and accept. Coming back to the festival venue, the party started with spoken word and Lady Gaga performances. The march ended but the fight is far from over.

It was our first Pride March but hopefully not our last. The feeling of unity and belongingness was addictive and we hope to hear better news about LGBTQ+ laws in the country.

-Kent Diamante identifies as a bisexual and LGBTQ+ advocate.



#THROWBACK

K-ON!! けいおん!!

KE-I-O-N-BU!

by Kahlua

Who would've thought that it has been eight years already since this series first aired in Japan? Right! If it's musical anime we're talking about, this definitely is one of the best that we have in history.



Carefree and air-headed as she is, Hirasawa Yui thought that the "Light Music Club" she saw on a poster is about music done only by simple instruments like castanets. She signed up quickly, but when she realized that it's not the same as what she was thinking about, she wanted to immediately cancel her application.

Too bad for her though, Ritsu, Mio and Tsumugi are badly in need for one more member to join for them to officially form the club. They managed to convince her to joining, and since then she started to learn how to play the guitar. She was successful learning it until their debut at the school festival. With Yui now as the lead guitarist and vocalist, Mio as bassist and vocalist, Tsumugi as keyboardist and Ritsu as drummer, they call their band the Houkago Tea Time (After School Tea

Time). Later in the season they were able to recruit a new member, their lower classman, named Azusa who became their additional guitarist.

With 13 episodes, K-On! is the first season which was aired on Spring 2009 and was followed by a second season with 26 episodes, K-On!!, the next year at around the same months. Both seasons, including also K-On! The Movie, are all produced under Kyoto Animation studio.

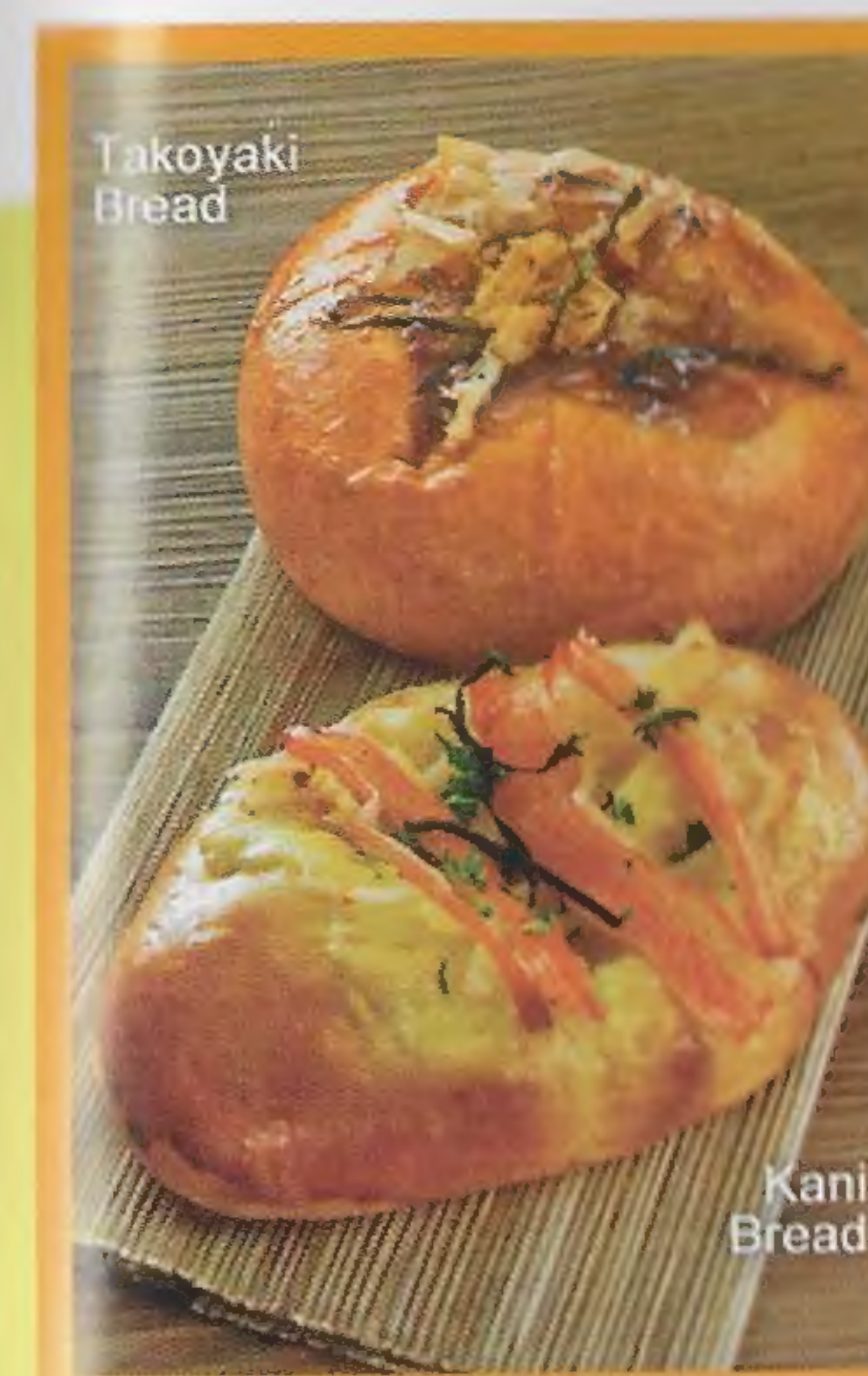
When it comes to everyday school life stories, K-On! was certainly very fun to watch with its music club inclusions. A band formed by girls, how cute yet cool can that be? The music they let us hear will always be included in our playlists, and the feels they gave especially in the second season is forever stamped in our hearts.



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Matcha Capuccino



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